



SEWER COMMISSION AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

August 25, 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

6:00 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 from 2/10/25, 4/7/25, 5/20/25, 6/16/25, 7/28/25
- Fats, Oils, & Grease
 - Board of Health held public hearing & adopted FOG regulations on 8/12/25. Regs are effective immediately, with 1 year for existing food service establishments to fully comply
 - Fall issue of Gill Newsletter may have blurb & graphic on FOG (septic & sewer) if space allows
 - Review examples of FOG notices/flyers as future bill inserts

New Business

- Enforcement Order to Cielito Lindo, LLC re Sewer Use Regulations, Article IV, Section 8 (Use of the Public Sewers / Grease, Oil, Sand Interceptors) – suggested at 7/28/25 Sewer Commission meeting that “significant progress be shown within 3 months of the order.”
- Amendments to Sewer Use Regulations

- **Article II (Definitions), Sec. 52 Sewer Commission.**

Change FROM: “The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Gill, or their duly authorized deputy, agent, or representative.”

TO: “Collectively, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Gill and the two Sewer Commissioners appointed by the Board of Selectmen, or their duly authorized deputy, agent, or representative.”

- **Article IV (Use of the Public Sewers), Sec. 6 Violation of General or Specific Discharge Prohibitions.**

Change first sentence FROM: “If any waters or wastes are discharged that contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in Sections 3 or 4 of this Article the Sewer Commission may:”

TO: “If any waters or wastes are discharged that contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in Sections 3 or 4 or 5 of this Article the Sewer Commission may:”

Sub-paragraphs a) through e) remain unchanged.

- **Article IV (Use of the Public Sewers), Sec. 8 Grease, Oil and Sand Interceptors.**

Current text: “Grease, oil, and sand interceptors shall be provided by the User when, in the opinion of the Sewer Commission, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease in excessive amounts, or any flammable wastes, sand, or other harmful

ingredients; interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the Sewer Commission and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.”

Add NEW last sentence: “Food Service Establishments shall comply with all applicable Board of Health regulations, including the Regulations for Fats, Oils, and Grease Management.”

- **Article IX (Billing Practice), Sec. 4 Homes Not on Town Water Supply.**

Change FROM: **Sec. 4. Homes Not on Town Water Supply.** Homes that are connected to the public sewer system, but not to the public water system, shall have a sewer meter installed to determine sewer usage. The homeowner shall purchase said meter from the water commissioners, have it installed by a licensed plumber, and have the installation inspected by the water commissioners.

TO: **Sec. 4. Homes Not Connected to Riverside Water District.** Homes that are connected to the public sewer system, but not to the Riverside Water District public water supply, shall have a water meter installed to determine sewer usage. The homeowner shall purchase or otherwise obtain said meter from the Water Commissioners, have it installed by a licensed plumber, and have the installation inspected by the Water Commissioners.

- Sewer Abatements
 - Cathleen Demars, 10 Walnut St, \$131.87 for metered water used to fill swimming pool
 - Karen Timberlake, 28 French King Hwy, \$46.54 for metered water used to fill swimming pool
- Rate Increase notice from Montague – from \$18.00 to \$18.50 per 1,000 gallons effective 7/1/25
- Updated quote from RH White for 4” Krohne Flow Meter - \$26,425
- Schedule next meeting (Monday, September 22nd?)
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2025

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Charles Garbiel, Jeff Suprenant, Greg Snedeker, Randy Crochier, David Conway

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator, Tim Batchelder, John Miner, Dan Flag

Election of Officers: Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to elect Garbiel as Chair. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 opposed. Crochier made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to elect Snedeker as Clerk. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, and Snedeker abstained.

Sewer Commitments: Crochier made a motion, seconded by Snedeker, to approve and sign commitments of \$3.49 with a bill date of 11/20/24 (sale of 3 Myrtle St) and \$36.66 with a bill date of 11/26/24 (sale of 23 Oak St). The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Sewer Abatement: Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Crochier, to grant an abatement to Jeff Suprenant in the amount of \$17.46 for metered water used to fill a spa. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, and Suprenant abstained from the vote. Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Crochier, to grant an abatement to Chris Pelletier in the amount of \$91.10 for metered water used to fill a swimming pool. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, and Suprenant abstained from the vote.

Sewer Delinquencies Liened to Real Estate Bills: The Commission reviewed a list of 5 sewer accounts with delinquencies through June 30, 2024 with a total (principle, interest, and fees) of \$8,451.56 through 1/30/25. Crochier made a motion, seconded by Snedeker, to place sewer liens against the real estate bills for the list accounts. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Sewer Rates: The Commission reviewed a 4-page handout with four scenarios for changing Gill's sewer rates: increases of 0%, 1%, 1.5%, and 2%. The discussion was prompted by a 5.7% increase in the rate Montague charges Gill for the treatment and disposal of sewage Gill pumps from Riverside into the Montague wastewater treatment system. Although the handout indicated Montague's increase could be absorbed without any increase to Gill's sewer rate, the Commission felt a small increase now would help avoid much larger increases in the future. It was felt ratepayers' budgets can more easily adapt to a series of small increases over time than to a single major increase. Crochier made a motion, seconded by Conway, to approve a 1% rate increase from \$0.3491 to \$0.3526/cubic foot effective for the sewer bills for October – December 2024. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Future Topics: The Commission brainstormed topics it wants to consider at future meetings:

- Changing the minimum quarterly billing to something greater than \$4.00
- Reviewing the 2024 collection system audit & manhole inspection report prepared by the Mass Rural Water Association (MRWA)
 - o Highway Superintendent John Miner noted lately there have been no issues with clothing & other materials binding up the pumps
 - o Some manholes need to be repaired or reworked
 - o Installing the new metering device should be a top priority
 - o Crochier, who is on the Board of Directors for the MRWA, will set up a meeting with Miner and Dave Kaczinski, Director of the MRWA
- Discussing what authority to grant, and to whom, regarding approval of emergency expenditures
- Developing regulations to require grease traps for food-based businesses
- Consideration of the FY26 Sewer Budget

Next Meeting: March 10, 2025.

On a motion from Snedeker, seconded by Crochier, and a subsequent unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/25/2025

Greg Snedeker, Sewer Commission Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2025

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Charles Garbiel (Chair), Jeff Suprenant, Greg Snedeker, Randy Crochier, David Conway

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator, Tim Batchelder, Luke DeRoy

Review of Minutes: Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Suprenant, to approve the minutes of 3/10/25. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

FY26 Proposed Sewer Budget: The Commission reviewed the proposed sewer budget for FY26, noting it is level funded at \$185,000. All of the funds to operate the sewer system come from sewer use fees paid by households and businesses connected to the Riverside sewer system. Purington noted the budget assumes a 2.5% COLA for employees, but the increase will not be implemented if Town Meeting doesn't approve the COLA for town-wide operations. Expenses for FY25 are projected to be about \$170,000 and the \$185K figure for FY26 is thought to be adequate.

Fats, Oils, and Grease Regulations: Crochier recommended the Commission look at the City of Northampton's Board of Health regulations for "Fats, Oils, and Grease Management." He feels those regs are generally well written and should be a good starting place for Gill's regulations. He noted Gill's regulations should include an effective date for existing businesses that is 6-12 months after the adoption date. The regulations would be effective immediately for any new businesses.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2025.

On a motion from Snedeker, seconded by Crochier, and a subsequent unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/25/2025

Greg Snedeker, Sewer Commission Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2025

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:26 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: John Ward, Jeff Suprenant, David Conway, Charles Garbiel, Greg Snedeker (6:32)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Reorganization: Suprenant made a motion, seconded by Ward, to keep the Commission's officers unchanged, with Garbiel as Chair and Snedeker as Clerk. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Review of Minutes: No minutes were available for review.

Sewer Commitments: Conway made a motion, seconded by Suprenant, to approve and sign the following commitments: \$57,863.39 with a bill date of 4/25/25 (Jan-Mar 2025 sewer bills), \$84.52 with a bill date of 4/18/25 (sale of 31 Riverview Dr), and \$12.34 with a bill date of 5/2/25 (sale of 32 Walnut St). The motion was approved by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and Ward abstained from the vote. Snedeker joined the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Sewer Abatement: Ward made a motion, seconded by Conway, to grant an abatement to Jeff Suprenant in the amount of \$17.63 for metered water used to fill a spa. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, and Suprenant abstained from the vote.

Fats, Oils, and Grease Regulations: The Commission reviewed sample regulations from the City of Northampton Board of Health entitled "Regulation of Fats, Oils, and Grease Management." The Northampton regs had been suggested by Randy Crochier (previous Selectboard member and Sewer Commissioner, and current Regional Health Agent and Program Manager of the Cooperative Public Health Service) as a good starting point for Gill's regulations.

The Commission agreed to discuss the regulations at its next meeting and requested Purington to invite representatives from The Mill, Wagon Wheel, and Cielito Lindo to attend and participate in the conversation. Conway suggested the regulations need to have a section governing implementation, that is, how much time existing restaurants will have to come into compliance with the new regulations.

Other Business: Garbiel suggested Gill's wet well (underground holding tank ahead of the sewer pumps) be cleaned annually as a way to avoid the high cost of removing several feet of grease every 4-5 years. The suggestion is based on his experience working for Erving's Wastewater Department. He will find out the company Erving uses and relay that information to Highway Superintendent John Miner.

Suprenant expressed the opinion that not all of the Highway Department's time spent working on the sewer system and pump station should be charged to the sewer budget. He suggested the ½-hour daily checks of the pump station and associated mileage should be within the Highway budget. He also suggested the Commission should revisit a vote from several months ago that allows Highway employees' hours for big sewer projects to be charged to the sewer budget. The topics will be included on the Commission's next agenda.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/25/2025

Greg Snedeker, Sewer Commission Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2025

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: John Ward, Jeff Suprenant, Charles Garbiel, Greg Snedeker Members Absent: David Conway

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator, John Miner

Review of Minutes: No minutes were available for review.

Fats, Oils, and Grease Regulations: The Commission reviewed a draft of suggested regulations for Gill's Board of Health entitled "Regulation of Fats, Oils, and Grease Management." The regulations are based on the same named document from Northampton, with some minor adjustments. It was noted the regulations still need to be reviewed and discussed by the Board of Health and could not be adopted until after a public hearing has been held.

Suggested changes to the draft regulations included adding a statement that each day of a violation constitutes a separate offense, and adding a provision that the Board of Health shall consult with the Sewer Commission before granting any variances to the regulations. Questions about the use of high-temperature dishwashers will be discussed with Randy Crochier, Regional Health Agent and Program Manager of the Cooperative Public Health Service. Purington will update the document and present it to the Board of Health at an upcoming meeting.

Representatives from The Mill, Wagon Wheel, and Cielito Lindo will be invited to the Commission's July meeting to weigh in on the proposed regulations.

Sewer Commitments: Snedeker made a motion, seconded by Ward, to approve and sign the commitment of \$379.05 with a bill date of 6/6/25 (sale of 61 Riverview Dr). The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Sewer Budget vs Highway Budget: The Commission took up a topic raised by Suprenant at its May 20, 2025 meeting concerning the amount of the Highway Department's labor and expenses that are charged to the sewer budget when employees are working on the sewer system and pump station. Purington presented the minutes from the August 15, 2022 Selectboard meeting at which, during a discussion of ongoing problems at the pump station, the Selectboard agreed by consensus the "sewer budget should be charged for the labor hours so that it is possible to know the total expenses associated with operating the pump station." Suprenant expressed the opinion Riverside residents already pay enough between quarterly sewer bills and their property taxes, and that Town services to the neighborhood are less than what's provided to the rest of the town. The opinion was not shared by other members of the Commission. Ultimately it was agreed there would be no change to the current way expenses are apportioned to the sewer budget.

GIS Mapping of Manholes and Pump Station: Purington presented a work plan and community service agreement from RCAP Solutions for "collecting, editing, and creating maps of the existing sewer system assets." The project will be done at no cost to the Town and will provide an online database of all of the locations of the sewer system's manholes, which is a requirement of the Town's NPDES permit. The work will be conducted this summer. The project was approved by consensus.

Next Meeting: July 14, 2025.

On a motion from Suprenant, seconded by Snedeker, and a subsequent unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/25/2025

Greg Snedeker, Sewer Commission Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2025

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Greg Snedeker, John Ward, Jeff Suprenant, David Conway Members Absent: Charles Garbiel

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Tim Batchelder, Erin-Leigh Hoffman, Kate Savage, John Miner, Jon Miller, Carolann Zaccara, and Randy Crochier (6:38 PM).

Review of Minutes: No minutes were available for review.

Fats, Oils, and Grease Regulations: The Commission reviewed an updated draft of the proposed Board of Health regulations for Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Management. The draft incorporates comments from the Board of Health and from the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS). The regulations, if adopted, will require all Food Service Establishments connected to the Riverside sewer system to have a FOG pretreatment system. All three of affected businesses – The Mill, Wagon Wheel, and Cielito Lindo – were invited to this meeting and provided copies of the draft regulations by email and regular mail.

An email was received today from Mark Graham of The Mill with a description and photos of The Mill's food oil system for their chicken fryers. There are two exterior tanks, each with a 900-pound capacity, with one tank for new/fresh oil and the other for old/used oil. The system is monitored by Restaurant Technologies. The limited amounts of grease created from bacon and burgers is collected in a 5-gallon bucket and disposed of in the trash. Members discussed, based on personal knowledge, that The Mill is also equipped with an outdoor underground grease interceptor tank. Randy Crochier, Regional Health Agent and Program Manager of the CPHS, joined the meeting at 6:38 PM.

Jon Miller and Carolann Zaccara, owners of the Wagon Wheel restaurant, explained their business is equipped with an interior passive grease trap with a 30-40 gallon capacity. It is cleaned monthly by an employee, and the grease trap is replaced every 10 years. The current trap was installed in 2024. When the trap is cleaned there is roughly three 5-gallon buckets of grease, which is disposed of in the onsite trash dumpster. Their restaurant does not have an exterior underground tank.

It is believed the Cielito Lindo food truck, which hasn't moved in more than 20 years, lacks any type of grease interceptor, interior or exterior.

Conway noted the Wagon Wheel's current practice – having an employee clean the grease trap, and disposing of the grease in the trash – would not meet the proposed regulations as they are currently written. Harmony Environmental from Ludlow, Mass offers grease trap cleaning & disposal services for \$350/month. Crochier noted the current disposal method used by the Wagon Wheel and The Mill is acceptable under current Mass Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) rules. Crochier feels the current draft of the regulations, with the requirement for monthly cleaning by a licensed professional, impose excessive costs on businesses and he will recommend the Board of Health not adopt the regulations as currently written.

It was suggested the maintenance provisions in section C.4 be changed to "The operator shall ensure there is proper cleaning and maintenance of any indoor grease trap and all waste is disposed of in a proper fashion." or wording to that effect. Crochier also recommended the regulations be changed to remove any instances where a health agent would be allowed to approve case-by-case amendments or waivers to the regulations.

Purington will incorporate the suggested changes and will present the regulations to the Board of Health at its August 12, 2025 meeting. Miller, Zaccara, and Crochier left the meeting at 7:24 PM.

Sewer Commitments: The following commitments were reviewed and signed by the Commission: \$241.88 with a bill date of 6/25/25 (sale of 35 Riverview Dr), \$57,910.64 with a bill date of 7/14/25 (Apr-Jun 2025 sewer bills), and \$1.76 with a bill date of 7/15/25 (sale of 17 Walnut).

Minimum Billing for Final Sewer Readings: In light of the recent commitment for \$1.76 for the final sewer reading preceding a real estate sale at 17 Walnut Street, Purington recommended the Commission consider adopting a minimum billing amount for mid-quarter bills. Suprenant made a motion, seconded by Ward, to adopt a minimum billing of \$10.00 for final sewer readings and similar mid-quarter bills, effective immediately. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Sewer Abatement: The Commission reviewed an abatement request from Julie LaValley of 21 Riverview Drive for an excessive reading due to broken water pipes. The electric water heater developed a leak that went undetected for 1-2 months until LaValley received an unusually high electric bill. The Commission found the submitted information to be credible. The water meter readings that are the basis for the most recent sewer bill, which includes the time period of the leak, are roughly double the historical usage. Suprenant made a motion, seconded by Conway, to grant an abatement in the amount of \$550.05 which is 50% of the sewer bill. The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Other Business: Conway requested the agenda for the next meeting include an item for enforcement of Article IV, Sec. 8 of the Sewer Use Regulations, specifically that Cielito Lindo be required to install a grease & oil interceptor. He suggested the order could require significant progress be shown within 3 months.

Conway requested an agenda item for the next meeting to clean up several errors and omissions in the Sewer Use Regulations: 1) Article IV, Sec. 6 (violations) erroneously omits Section 5 from the list prohibited discharges that are subject to violation actions by the Commission. 2) Article IX, Sec. 4 states that homes not on the Town water supply shall have a sewer meter installed to determine sewer usage. It should be a *water* meter that is installed. 3) In light of the likely adoption of FOG regulations by the Board of Health, the Sewer Use Regulations should include language that requires compliance with Board of Health regulations.

Miner recommended the project to replace the flow meter at the pump station be made a top priority. He will contact the RH White Company and ask for an updated quote.

Next Meeting: August 25, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/25/2025

Greg Snedeker, Sewer Commission Clerk



Fight FOG

**Don't put Fats, Oil
and Grease down
your drain**



***Can it
Scrape it
Trash it***

Once cooled, pour leftover oils and grease into a sturdy container, like an empty coffee can or glass jar.

Before washing, scrape out fats, oils and grease residuals from pots, pans and dishes.

Put fatty and greasy food scraps in the garbage, not the drain.

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) can damage your home and the environment.
Help prevent sewer overflows and backups.



What can you do to help?

- Never pour grease down the sink or toilet
- Scrape grease and food scraps into FOG by BioLynceus the trash for disposal
- Use a paper towel or newspaper to wipe grease from pans after cooking
- Collect large amounts of grease in a biodegradable container and dispose in the trash
- Talk to friends and neighbors about how to keep food waste out of the sewers

**DON'T
CLOG
WITH
FOG**

FOG is a natural by-product of cooking. When food waste is washed down the sink, grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes (both in your home and in the city sewer lines). Over time, it can build up and block pipes resulting in:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home or your neighbor's home
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often **must be paid by the home or business owner**
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets leading to potential contact with pathogens
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for your local sewer department, leading to higher rates for all customers

Not So Fun Facts:

Home garbage disposals do **NOT** keep grease out of the plumbing system. Also, hot water and products that claim to dissolve grease only pass FOG down the sewer line and cause problems in the city sewer system.

Fats, oils and grease are not just bad for your health, but for the sewer too. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.



Put fats, oils and grease where they belong
Ponga las grasas, y aceites donde pertenecen

HOW DO YOU DISPOSE OF COOKING OIL?

- 1 Let It Cool
- 2 Pour It Into a Trash Can
- 3 Pour It Into a Container to Reuse
- 4 Recycle the Oil



CLEAN PIPES ARE GREEN PIPES

SIMPLE STEPS TO KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN, PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH, AND AVOID EXPENSIVE PLUMBING REPAIRS.

AVOID FOG: FATS, OILS, & GREASE DON'T GO DOWN THE DRAIN

Pour it into a sealable container and place it in the trash. Never pour oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, lard, shortening, butter, margarine, salad dressings, mayo, creams, or sauces down the sink or toilet. If you have a lot of oil, mix it with cat litter a little bit at a time and pour it into a sealed bag and place it in the trash.



SAVE OUR PIPES, DON'T FLUSH WIPES

Don't flush any types of wipes down the commode, even flushable wipes. Food can cling to them and build up more quickly in wastewater pipes.



COMPOST MORE, WASTE LESS

Compost food waste when possible; otherwise, throw scraps in the trash.



KEEP OUR SEWERS FAT-FREE

Wipe dishes and cookware with a paper towel to remove grease, rather than running water over them. Don't use cloth towels as the grease will end up in the sewer when you wash them.

PROTECT YOUR WATER

Place a strainer in the sink drain to catch small pieces of food and eliminate your use of a garbage disposal. Food scraps of any kind can plug your home's wastewater lines.



KEEP CLEAN AND GO GREEN

Use environmentally safe cleaning products, such as those that have the EPA Safer Choice label, instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.



Ciaran Hanna
Town Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WWW.PERINTON.ORG

12 Things You Should **Never** Put Down the Drain.



Grease

Grease from melted bacon fat, meats and gravy can have a huge negative impact on your drain's health.

Eggshells

Peeling a boiled egg over your sink can see it become clogged with the tiny shell fragments.

Cotton Buds

The plastic of cotton buds and the cotton itself can both be very detrimental to the health of your drains and the environment.

Medication

Liquid medication and pills or capsules alike can have a negative effect on the environment and water supply.

Oils

Be it cooking oil, engine oil, salad dressing or brake fluid, your drain doesn't want it. Dispose of it responsibly.

Condoms & Feminine Hygiene Products

These products don't biodegrade, so are harmful to both your drains and the environment (if they manage to flush away).



Fat

Whether it's milk or cheese, meat trimmings, lard or butter, all kinds of fat can clog your drains and produce nasty smells.

Paint

Paint is toxic to the environment and must only ever be disposed of in a safe manner, either once it's dried or at a dedicated facility - not down your drain!

Produce Stickers

When washing your fruit and veg in the sink, remove the produce stickers first; they can harm the environment, clog your drains or get caught on filters.

Conventional Cleaning Products

Switch to all-natural cleaning products instead to help protect the environment from harmful bleaches and antibacterial products.

Coffee Grounds

Coffee beans and powders can seriously block your drains in no time at all, contrary to popular belief.

Food!

The odd bit of sweetcorn, pasta or rice finding its way down your drain may not be so bad, but over time this can build up substantially. Smells, blockages and broken pipes can result, so stop all food from going down your drains.



TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM (Revised 02/11/25)

If the usage figures are believed to be incorrect for the current billing cycle, an abatement form must be filled out, signed, and dated to allow the Town to respond and consider the request. **The bill must be paid before any abatement will be considered.** Sewer abatements will not be granted for the following uses: watering gardens; watering lawns; washing vehicles, buildings, driveways, etc.; no water meter reading or use.

Abatement requests must be in writing to the Sewer Commissioners within 30 days of the Bill Date. (NOTE: 30 days of the Bill Date, NOT the Due Date.)

Sewer Bill Date: Sewer Bill #:

Dear Sewer Commissioners: I am requesting abatement of my sewer bill for the noted reason(s).

- ☒ Metered water used for filling swimming pools or spas (complete chart below)
(Abatement shall not be granted if calculated amount is less than \$10.00)
- ☐ Inaccurate readings (must be confirmed by Water Commissioners)
- ☐ Excessive reading due to broken water pipes (must prove that excess water did not enter sewer system)
- ☐ Other (explain below)

Explanation:

Usage History:

Date	"A" Meter Reading Before (Cu. Ft.)	"B" Meter Reading After (Cu. Ft.)	"C" # of Cubic Ft (B - A)	"D" Sewer Rate (from bill) 0.3278 \$/cu. ft.	\$ Requested for Abatement (C x D)
<i>Example</i>	<i>075074</i>	<i>075162</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>0.3526</i>	<i>31.03</i>
6/7/25	72028	72402	374	0.3526	131.87
				0.3526	
				0.3526	
				0.3526	
Total requested					131.87

Continued on second page

SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM, page 2

Signature C. Demars

Today's Date 8/7/25

Name Cathleen Demars

Account # (from bill) 3800

Address 10 Walnut St

Gill, MA 01354

Tel. 4135228592

Email demarscat@gmail.com

Meter location if different from above address

Submit this completed form to the Sewer Commissioners:

Mail: 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354

Email: administrator@gillmass.org

Do not send this form with your sewer payment. Do not send sewer payments with this form.

Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

-----Town Use Only Below This Line-----

Date received by Sewer Commissioners 8/7/25 (Town has 90 days from receipt to process abatement.)

Sewer bill is paid & no outstanding sewer charges? (YES) NO Tax Collector signature *Simon Welton*

Sewer Commission response: Approved _____ Denied _____ Date _____

Sewer Commissioners _____

TOWN OF GILL

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SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM (Revised 02/11/25)

If the usage figures are believed to be incorrect for the current billing cycle, an abatement form must be filled out, signed, and dated to allow the Town to respond and consider the request. **The bill must be paid before any abatement will be considered.** Sewer abatements will not be granted for the following uses: watering gardens; watering lawns; washing vehicles, buildings, driveways, etc.; no water meter reading or use.

Abatement requests must be in writing to the Sewer Commissioners within 30 days of the Bill Date. (NOTE: 30 days of the Bill Date, NOT the Due Date.)

Sewer Bill Date: 7-14-25 Sewer Bill #: FY 2026-001

Dear Sewer Commissioners: I am requesting abatement of my sewer bill for the noted reason(s).

- ☒ Metered water used for filling swimming pools or spas (complete chart below)
(Abatement shall not be granted if calculated amount is less than \$10.00)
- ☐ Inaccurate readings (must be confirmed by Water Commissioners)
- ☐ Excessive reading due to broken water pipes (must prove that excess water did not enter sewer system)
- ☐ Other (explain below)

Explanation:

Topping off Pool

Usage History:

Date	"A" Meter Reading Before (Cu. Ft.)	"B" Meter Reading After (Cu. Ft.)	"C" # of Cubic Ft (B - A)	"D" Sewer Rate (from bill) 0.3278 \$/cu. ft.	\$ Requested for Abatement (C x D)
<i>Example</i>	075074	075162	88	0.3526	31.03
5/29/25	158788	158888	100	0.3526	35.26
5/30/25	158911	158943	32	0.3526	11.28
				0.3526	
				0.3526	
				Total requested	46.54

Continued on second page

SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM, page 2

Signature

Karen Timberlake

Today's Date

8/6/25

Name

Karen + Mark Timberlake

Account # (from bill)

1400

Address

28 French King Hwy

Gill MA 01354

Tel.

413-325-6069

Email

markatimber@comcast.net

Meter location if different from above address

Submit this completed form to the Sewer Commissioners:

Mail: 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354

Email: administrator@gillmass.org

Do not send this form with your sewer payment. Do not send sewer payments with this form.

Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

-----Town Use Only Below This Line-----

Date received by Sewer Commissioners

8/7/25

(Town has 90 days from receipt to process abatement.)

Sewer bill is paid & no outstanding sewer charges?

☒ YES

NO

Tax Collector signature

Paul Wilkerson

Sewer Commission response:

Approved _____

Denied _____

Date _____

Sewer Commissioners

02/10/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Expense Summary

	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17
Category	Budgeted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Alarm Services	320	300	300	291	288	351	276	276	270
Bill Printing	510	503	492	432	320	416	554	554	417
Dues	150	150	150	150	150	175	112	112	112
Electric	2,200	1,756	1,426	1,742	1,319	1,441	1,511	1,429	1,184
Inspections/Calibrations	1,300	100	1,126	100	856	100	-	100	50
I&I Work & Smoke Test & NPDES	5,000		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	13,500	1,731	5,560	12,034	1,222	11,303	592	-	371
Mileage	2,650	2,007	1,668	1,675	1,745	2,016	1,566	1,037	969
Mowing	440	350	380	205	275	275	300	325	275
Other/Supplies	2,000	600	1,864	299	1,536	-	922	110	155
Payroll	15,390	14,724	15,722	14,022	10,802	11,651	11,460	9,907	10,547
Postage	425		388	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sewage Disposal	140,935	124,445	109,768	138,076	114,530	137,771	134,656	78,857	71,257
Telephone	180	146	146	179	185	225	212	228	227
Expenses grand total	185,000	146,812	138,988	169,206	133,229	165,725	152,160	92,934	85,834

Omnibus Budget Voted	185,000	185,000	185,000	173,500	173,500	163,100	99,065	96,065	92,585
Extra Voted to Budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-
Budget minus Expenses	-	38,187.74	46,011.69	4,294.34	40,271.14	(2,624.95)	6,905	3,131	6,751

	5-yr Average								
% expenses - Sewage Disposal	83%	85%	79%	82%	86%	83%	88%	85%	83%
% all other expenses	17%	15%	21%	18%	14%	17%	12%	15%	17%
total all other expenses		22,367	29,220	31,129	18,699	27,954	17,504	14,078	14,578
incr all other expenses/prior yr		-23.5%	-6.1%	66.5%	-33.1%	59.7%	24.3%	-3.4%	-26.1%

24-month total gallons sent to Montague	14,729,320	(Jan 2023 - Dec 2024)		
average gallons for 12 months	7,364,660		FY25 budget for non-disposal costs	44,065
estimated disposal cost - old rate \$17.03/1000	\$ 125,420		estimated disposal costs (new rate) (A)	132,564
(A) estimated disposal cost - NEW rate \$18.00	\$ 132,564		contingency for nonpayments (5.5%)	\$ 9,700
budgeted for disposal	\$ 140,935		build reserves	\$ 15,000
expected shortfall	\$ (8,371)		total to bill	\$ 201,329

Montague rate increase 5.7%

02/10/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Revenue Summary

There are currently 113 sewer accounts (as of 10/07/2024).

Current Rate	0.3491	\$/cubic foot (adopted for bills in Jan 2024
less 10% discount		Discount eliminated by Selectboard vote 12/20/21
Effective Rate	0.3491	

Period	<u>Sewer Commitments - aka Invoices to Users</u>					*(only 10 months of billing fell in FY17 due to shift in quarterly cycle)			
	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17*
Invoiced amount		202,931.83	195,600.29	194,699.03	189,968.48	178,974.50	141,814.67	102,219.08	86,976.16
Unpaid & placed onto real estate		8,451.56	13,932.26	10,722.07	10,121.41	9,683.85	11,670.33	13,651.61	15,547.57
Unpaid percentage		4.2%	7.1%	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%	8.2%	13.4%	17.9%
		5.5% average of 5 years							

<u>Current Projected Revenue</u>		
RWD Water Use (current average)	12,323 gal/day	(average of last 8 quarters: 10/1/22 - 9/30/24)
equals	4,510,218 gal/year	
equals	602,971 cu ft/year	
times current Effective Rate	0.3491 \$/cu ft	
= Total Invoiced to Sewer Users	\$ 210,497	

02/10/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Proposed Projected Revenue - FULL YEAR

Scenario A		
Possible New Rate (+ 0.0 %)	0.3491	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	210,497

Scenario B		
Possible New Rate (+ 1.0 %)	0.3526	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	212,608

Scenario C		
Possible New Rate (+ 1.5 %)	0.3543	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	213,633

Scenario D		
Possible New Rate (+ 2.0 %)	0.3561	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	214,718

FY25 Proposed Projected Revenue - July/Oct bills @ Old Rate, Feb/Apr bills @ New Rate

Bill Date	Scenario A			Avg Cu. Ft	Scenario B		
	Avg Cu. Ft	Rate	Bill Total \$		Rate	Bill Total \$	
July '24 - Actual			\$ 54,884			\$ 54,884	
October '24 - Actual			\$ 55,713			\$ 55,713	
February '25 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	142,267	0.3491	\$ 49,665	142,267	0.3526	\$ 50,163	
April '25 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	143,891	0.3491	\$ 50,232	143,891	0.3526	\$ 50,736	
			\$ 210,495			\$ 211,496	
Bill Date	Scenario C			Avg Cu. Ft	Scenario D		
	Avg Cu. Ft	Rate	Bill Total \$		Rate	Bill Total \$	
July '24 - Actual			\$ 54,884			\$ 54,884	
October '24 - Actual			\$ 55,713			\$ 55,713	
February '25 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	142,267	0.3543	\$ 50,405	142,267	0.3561	\$ 50,661	
April '25 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	143,891	0.3543	\$ 50,981	143,891	0.3561	\$ 51,240	
			\$ 211,983			\$ 212,498	

02/10/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Impact on Average Sewer User

	Cubic Feet	Rate	Billed Amount	Amount Over Current	% Over Current	Scenario
Current Avg. Quarterly Amount (last 8 quarters)	1332	0.3491	\$ 465			
Current Avg. Annual Amount (last 8 quarters)	5328	0.3491	\$ 1,860			
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1332	0.3491	\$ 465	\$ -	0.0%	A
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5328	0.3491	\$ 1,860	\$ -		
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1332	0.3526	\$ 470	\$ 4.66	1.0%	B
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5328	0.3526	\$ 1,879	\$ 18.65		
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1332	0.3543	\$ 472	\$ 6.93	1.5%	C
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5328	0.3543	\$ 1,888	\$ 27.71		
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1332	0.3561	\$ 474	\$ 9.32	2.0%	D
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5328	0.3561	\$ 1,897	\$ 37.30		

Sewer Fund Balances

	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17
Starting Balance		215,210.55	158,883.10	133,178.78	91,500.94	81,291.28	105,102.99	92,203.31	78,330.04
minus Transfer to Omnibus	125,000.00	125,000.00	115,000.00	100,000.00	74,700.00	64,300.00	60,200.00	57,200.00	53,720.00
minus Extra to Omnibus						-	-	-	-
plus Actual/Estimated Receipts		191,958.05	195,315.76	194,909.98	174,906.70	175,934.61	128,348.03	105,832.84	99,707.72
plus Unspent from Omnibus		38,187.74	46,011.69	4,294.34	40,271.14	(2,624.95)	6,905.26	3,131.84	6,750.55
minus Reserved from Receipts	60,000.00	60,000.00	70,000.00	73,500.00	98,800.00	98,800.00	98,865.00	38,865.00	38,865.00
Ending Balance		260,356.34	215,210.55	158,883.10	133,178.78	91,500.94	81,291.28	105,102.99	92,203.31



Town of Montague • Massachusetts

Clean Water Facility

34 Greenfield Rd
Montague, MA 01351
TEL. (413) 773-8865

TO: Sewer Commission, Tax Collector, Town Accountant, Town Administrator
FROM: Chelsey Little, Superintendent CWF
DATE: August 5, 2025

Sewer Rates FY 2026

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| I. | Residential/Commercial Customers:
Turners Falls, Montague Center,
Montague City, Lake Pleasant,
Millers Falls, Gill | Rate: \$18.50/1000 gallons |
| II. | Industrial Customers | Rate: \$19.50/1000 gallons |
| III. | 12-Month Flat Rate
(based on avg. res. usage) | Rate: \$904.00/year |
| IV. | Minimum Connection Charge | Rate: \$316/year |

Septage Receiving:

In Town & Town of Gill:	= \$105/1,000 gallons
Out of Town:	= \$125/1,000 gallons

Trucked-in Solids: =Price to be negotiated between Town&FCSWMD

RV Waste: =\$20 per disposal

Other:

Interest Rate – 14% per Annum
Demand Charge - \$5.00

Sewer Commission Authorization

Matthew Lord

Richard Kuklewicz

Marina Goldman



CONSTRUCTION & SERVICE SOLUTIONS

8/22/2025

Town Of Gill
385 Main Road
Gill MA 01354
Highway Superintendent
highway@gillmass.org
413-834-1251

ATTN: John Miner
RE: 4" Flow Meter Install

Dear Mr. Miner

R.H. White Construction Co., Inc. is pleased to provide the following budgetary proposal to furnish and install one 4" Krhone flow meter for the town of Gill. We propose performing the work on a time and materials basis for the town of Gill.

Scope of Work:

- Mobilize to site
- Remove existing piping
- Furnish and install new 4" Krone flow meter
- Wire 4" Krone flow meter

Proposed Budget: \$ 26,425.00

Assumptions:

- Regular working hours of 7:00am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday
- RH White will have unrestricted access to the work area as needed during the project.
- The customer has all documentation necessary to substantiate that the site is free of hazardous materials.
- Vault will be free of water / Pump Station
- Piping will be able to be isolated / shut down

Exclusions:

- Removal of chemicals from the site
- Removal, handling, or disposal of any hazardous materials.
- Engineering of any kind.
- Permits and Fees.
- Bypassing of any kind
- Sewage pumping services
- Removal, handling, or disposal of any sewage
- Concrete or concrete repair

8/22/2025

Terms:

- Scheduling will be issued upon award
- Proposal valid for 60 days

RHW would like to thank you for the opportunity to work with you. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact me at 781 507 6918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M.V. Petrucci", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Michael V. Petrucci
Account Manager
Construction Services Division