



SEWER COMMISSION AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

September 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, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

6:15 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 8/25/25
- Update – Cielito Lindo enforcement orders for grease interceptor – certified letter was sent, received on 9/4/25, no word on any progress

New Business

- Sewer Meter – suggestion from Bruce Walker that we consider a Pulsar Doppler Flow Meter (clamp on exterior of pipe instead of being mounted in-line) – Need to decide soon.
- Sewer Rates – review projected revenue and expenses, discuss sewer rate proposal, vote to adopt new sewer rate and/or make suggestions as to how rates are calculated
- Due Dates for sewer bills – currently payment is due 60 days after bill is issued, which causes demand (late) bills to overlap with the next quarter's bills, which causes confusion & overpayments, which creates work for the Collector. Consider making bills due in 45 days (or even 30 days, the same as the deadline for abatement requests).
- Schedule next meeting (Monday, October 20th?)
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment



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 flourish extending to the right.

Michael V. Petrucci
Account Manager
Construction Services Division

Pump station

From John Miner/Gill Highway Superintendent <highway@gillmass.org>

Date Tue 9/2/2025 4:10 PM

To Ray Purington/Gill Town Administrator <administrator@gillmass.org>

Good afternoon Ray,

Insights from Bruce Walker's Recent Communication

Bruce Walker, well-known for overseeing our meter calibration at the pump station and originally suggesting we equip ourselves with a flow meter, reached out with some notable updates. After receiving an inquiry from R.H. White—who first contacted us regarding our system back in 2021—Bruce learned that their pricing has escalated significantly. This prompted him to propose exploring an alternative solution for our meter needs.

The new recommendation centers on the Pulsar Doppler Flow Meter. This innovative device offers a major advantage: it can be clamped directly onto the exterior of an existing pipe. Such a design means there's no need to shut down operations or remove the current system, in stark contrast to the installation complexity of R.H. White's proposed meter. Even more conveniently, the Pulsar Doppler is fully compatible with our existing chart system.

Bruce shared promising news that his distributor may have a loaner meter available, which he would like us to trial. He is currently investigating further details to facilitate this opportunity. The most encouraging aspect of his update is the expectation that switching to the Pulsar Doppler could represent significant cost savings compared to the previous approach.

Bruce plans to follow up within the next week or so, updating us with any findings and making arrangements for the trial if possible. His proactive steps could lead to both operational ease and financial benefits for our meter system moving forward.

I will keep you posted as soon as I hear something back from Bruce.

John

09/22/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Expense Summary

	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
Category	Budgeted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Alarm Services	320	300	300	300	291	288	351	276	276
Bill Printing	530	507	503	492	432	320	416	554	554
Dues	150	150	150	150	150	150	175	112	112
Electric	2,200	1,679	1,756	1,426	1,742	1,319	1,441	1,511	1,429
Inspections/Calibrations	1,300	100	100	1,126	100	856	100	-	100
I&I Work & Smoke Test & NPDES	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	13,650	9,456	1,731	5,560	12,034	1,222	11,303	592	-
Mileage	3,300	3,218	2,007	1,668	1,675	1,745	2,016	1,566	1,037
Mowing	470	380	350	380	205	275	275	300	325
Other/Supplies	2,000	901	600	1,864	299	1,536	-	922	110
Payroll	15,158	14,373	14,724	15,722	14,022	10,802	11,651	11,460	9,907
Postage	460	-	-	388	-	-	-	-	-
Sewage Disposal	140,302	132,013	124,445	109,768	138,076	114,530	137,771	134,656	78,857
Telephone	160	134	146	146	179	185	225	212	228
Expenses grand total	185,000	163,211	146,812	138,988	169,206	133,229	165,725	152,160	92,934

Omnibus Budget Voted	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	173,500	173,500	163,100	99,065	96,065
Extra Voted to Budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Budget minus Expenses	-	21,788.79	38,187.74	46,011.69	4,294.34	40,271.14	(2,624.95)	6,905	3,131

	5-yr Average								
% expenses - Sewage Disposal	82%	81%	85%	79%	82%	86%	83%	88%	85%
% all other expenses	18%	19%	15%	21%	18%	14%	17%	12%	15%
total all other expenses		31,199	22,367	29,220	31,129	18,699	27,954	17,504	14,078
incr all other expenses/prior yr		39.5%	-23.5%	-6.1%	66.5%	-33.1%	59.7%	24.3%	-3.4%

24-month total gallons sent to Montague	14,367,434	(Aug 2023 - Jul 2025)		
average gallons for 12 months	7,183,717		FY26 budget for non-disposal costs	44,698
estimated disposal cost - old rate \$18.00/1000	\$ 129,307		estimated disposal costs (new rate) (A)	132,899
(A) estimated disposal cost - NEW rate \$18.50	\$ 132,899		contingency for nonpayments (6.5%)	\$ 11,500
budgeted for disposal	\$ 140,302		build reserves	\$ 15,000
expected shortfall	\$ (7,403)		total to bill	\$ 204,097

Montague rate increase 2.8%

09/22/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Revenue Summary

There are currently 113 sewer accounts (as of 06/28/2025).

Current Rate	0.3526	\$/cubic foot (adopted for bills in Feb 2025
less 10% discount		Discount eliminated by Selectboard vote 12/20/21
Effective Rate	0.3526	

Sewer Commitments - aka Invoices to Users

Period	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
Invoiced amount		228,080.74	202,931.83	195,600.29	194,699.03	189,968.48	178,974.50	141,814.67	102,219.08
Unpaid & placed onto real estate		23,823.82	8,451.56	13,932.26	10,722.07	10,121.41	9,683.85	11,670.33	13,651.61
Unpaid percentage		10.4%	4.2%	7.1%	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%	8.2%	13.4%
		6.5% average of 5 years							

Current Projected Revenue

RWD Water Use (current average)	12,829	gal/day	(average of last 8 quarters: 7/1/23 -6/30/25)
equals	4,695,414	gal/year	
equals	627,730	cu ft/year	
times current Effective Rate	0.3526	\$/cu ft	
= Total Invoiced to Sewer Users	\$ 221,338		

09/22/25 Sewer Rates - for discussion & vote

Proposed Projected Revenue - FULL YEAR

Scenario A		
Possible New Rate (+ 0.0 %)	0.3526	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	221,338

Scenario B		
Possible New Rate (+ 1.0 %)	0.3561	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	223,535

Scenario C		
Possible New Rate (+ 1.5 %)	0.3579	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	224,665

Scenario D		
Possible New Rate (+ 2.0 %)	0.3597	\$/cu ft
Estim. Total Full Year	\$	225,794

FY26 Proposed Projected Revenue - July bills @ Old Rate, Oct/Jan/Apr bills @ New Rate

Bill Date	Scenario A			Scenario B		
	Avg Cu. Ft	Rate	Bill Total \$	Avg Cu. Ft	Rate	Bill Total \$
July '25 - Actual			\$ 54,884			\$ 54,884
October '25 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	158,164	0.3526	\$ 55,768	158,164	0.3561	\$ 56,322
January '26 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	156,266	0.3526	\$ 55,099	156,266	0.3561	\$ 55,646
April '26 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	152,467	0.3526	\$ 53,760	152,467	0.3561	\$ 54,293
			\$ 219,512			\$ 221,146
Bill Date	Scenario C			Scenario D		
	Avg Cu. Ft	Rate	Bill Total \$	Avg Cu. Ft	Rate	Bill Total \$
July '25 - Actual			\$ 54,884			\$ 54,884
October '25 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	158,164	0.3579	\$ 56,607	158,164	0.3597	\$ 56,891
January '26 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	156,266	0.3579	\$ 55,927	156,266	0.3597	\$ 56,209
April '26 (avg last 2 seasonal bills)	152,467	0.3579	\$ 54,568	152,467	0.3597	\$ 54,842
			\$ 221,986			\$ 222,826

09/22/25 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)	1387	0.3526	\$ 489			
Current Avg. Annual Amount (last 8 quarters)	5547	0.3526	\$ 1,956			
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1387	0.3526	\$ 489	\$ -	0.0%	A
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5547	0.3526	\$ 1,956	\$ -		
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1387	0.3561	\$ 494	\$ 4.85	1.0%	B
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5547	0.3561	\$ 1,975	\$ 19.41		
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1387	0.3579	\$ 496	\$ 7.35	1.5%	C
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5547	0.3579	\$ 1,985	\$ 29.40		
Possible Avg. Quarterly Amount	1387	0.3597	\$ 499	\$ 9.85	2.0%	D
Possible Avg. Annual Amount	5547	0.3597	\$ 1,995	\$ 39.38		

Sewer Fund Balances

	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18
Starting Balance		286,903.43	215,210.55	158,883.10	133,178.78	91,500.94	81,291.28	105,102.99	92,203.31
minus Transfer to Omnibus	150,000.00	125,000.00	125,000.00	115,000.00	100,000.00	74,700.00	64,300.00	60,200.00	57,200.00
minus Extra to Omnibus							-	-	-
plus Actual Receipts			218,505.14	195,315.76	194,909.98	174,906.70	175,934.61	128,348.03	105,832.84
plus Transfer from Free Cash		21,788.79	38,187.74	46,011.69	4,294.34	40,271.14	(2,624.95)	6,905.26	3,131.84
minus Reserved from Receipts	35,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	70,000.00	73,500.00	98,800.00	98,800.00	98,865.00	38,865.00
Ending Balance		123,692.22	286,903.43	215,210.55	158,883.10	133,178.78	91,500.94	81,291.28	105,102.99

FY25 receipts haven't been finalized.