

# TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

*February 2, 2009*

### Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:28 p.m.

### Present

Nancy Griswold, Ann Banash, Leland Stevens, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

### Review Minutes

The Board unanimously approved minutes from its January 20, 2009 meeting.

### Building Committee Appointment

Tracy reported that Kyle Maurer requested to be appointed to the Building Committee. Lee made a motion to appoint Mr. Maurer. Ann seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Claire Chang, Finance Committee member joined the meeting.

### Deficit Spending Request

Tracy reported that Terry Williams, local representative from the Dept. of Revenue, suggested the Board submit a written request for permission to deficit spend with regards to the December 11 ice storm. The Board agreed to this strategy and signed the letter drafted by Tracy.

### DAR Notices

Ann read aloud two notices from the Dept. of Agricultural Resources stating that the department is considering acquiring an interest in a total of 200 acres of land at 31 and 53 Munn's Ferry Road.

### Elevator Maintenance Contract

Tracy reported that she attempted to join the FRCOG's cooperative bid for elevator maintenance contracts, but that the bid was focusing on a different kind of elevator than the two that Gill has. She presented a renewal contract with Garaventa at the same price as last year's contract. Ann made a motion to renew the contract. Lee seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

### Superintendent Search

Tracy presented a letter from the Gill Montague Regional School District asking for one local official from Gill and one from Montague to join the Search Advisory Committee to search for a new superintendent. The Board tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

### Purchase Orders

The Board approved the following purchase orders:

- Staples, \$86.93, Selectboard expense, 3-ring binders for budgets
- Chris Goodhind, \$90.00, Fire Dept. expense, CPR cards
- Chris Goodhind, \$150.00, Fire Dept. expense, training
- Comtronics, \$300.00, Fire Dept. expense, headset repair
- Firematic Supply, \$1,200.00, Fire Dept. expense, air pack testing

### NMH Fire Truck Purchase

The Board discussed the likelihood of the Town receiving assistance from Northfield Mount Hermon in purchasing a new fire truck, given the fact that they just laid off 25 employees. Tracy reported that she provided NMH with the loan figures they requested weeks ago, but hasn't heard a response from anyone there.

### Tighe & Bond Contract

Tracy reported that Town Counsel had some recommended changes to the contract, so it is back in Tighe & Bond's court for review.

### Regional Policing

Nancy and Ann reported on the January 30 meeting with Bernardston, Northfield, and Senator Rosenberg. While it seems like sharing a chief is a difficult goal, but perhaps the ultimate goal (if not full regionalization of the departments), the group agreed it may be easier to start with sharing second and third shift coverage. The Board instructed Tracy to meet with the administrative assistants from Bernardston and Northfield (and Erving, if they're interested), and the police chiefs in those towns to discuss sharing shift coverage.

### FY09 Budget

The Board decided to schedule a mandatory meeting of all departments and committees that receive funding for Monday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss how to handle the mid-year cut to state aid.

Tracy reported that DOR's Financial Management Review was nearly complete and that DOR staff offered to make a presentation to the Board, and anyone else interested, on its findings. Tracy asked DOR if they could include the training piece about the Board's role and the Finance Committee's role in town budgeting as part of their presentation and they agreed. Tracy will schedule the meeting.

Tracy asked if the Board would like her to draft a letter to the School Committee expressing the Board's frustration at the 2.7% increased budget the Committee is

proposing for FY2010. Ann reported that she intends to attend the next School Committee meeting and express her interest verbally instead.

Tracy presented a letter from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District stating that the Town's current escrow account balance is \$7,277.98. The Board asked Tracy to write a letter to the District requesting \$6,000 of that balance to be sent to the Town in order to reduce the deficit caused by cuts in state aid.

Commission for Education Report

Ted Castro-Santos and Dorothy Storrow joined the meeting and presented the Board with a list of questions the Commission for Education in Gill is currently working to answer. Ann recommended a conversation with Jeff Wulfson and Christine Lynch at the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education about the possibility of Gill leaving the current district and/or joining another.

Ted, Dorothy, and Claire left the meeting.

Riverside Municipal Building

The Board discussed whether it was time to look at selling the Riverside Municipal Building again. The Board agreed to put the property on the annual town meeting warrant to declare it surplus.

Payroll and Bill Warrants

The Board approved payroll and bill warrant number 16.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.*

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Ann H. Banash, Selectboard Clerk