

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:37pm.

Present: John Ward and Randy Crochier, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: David Detmold, Rick James

Quintus Allen Fund Request: Rita Detweiler, Gill Elementary School Principal, Court Dorsey, and Jen Simms appeared before the Board to request an allocation of money from the Town's Quintus Allen Fund (QAF). The school has not had any large all-school performances in the past three years, and the Gill Arts Committee is asking for \$3,000 from the QAF to hire Court Dorsey as an artist-in-residence to coordinate the production, help students write scripts, write a script to tie all the grade-level scripts together, and lead rehearsals and the performance. The overall theme is "Journeys", and fits into a school-wide theme and academic curriculum. The project has also received funds from the Gill Cultural Council and the school's PTO. The performance is scheduled for June 2nd. It was noted that the current balance of the QAF is \$9,904. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to authorize the expenditure of \$3,000 from the Quintus Allen Fund for this project. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Rita, Court, and Jen left at 4:48pm.

Review of Minutes: Minutes from the March 28th meeting are not ready, and will be presented at the April 25th meeting.

Public Health District Grant: Ray reported that the FRCOG was awarded a \$29,550 Public Health District Incentive Planning Grant by the Mass. Dept. of Public Health. This grant will be used to plan and develop the Franklin County Cooperative Health Services. Gill's Selectboard and Board of Health have both signed on as supporters of and participants in the planning grant. See minutes from January 19, 2011.

Town Election Warrant: Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to sign the warrant for the May 16th Town Elections. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and the warrant was signed.

4:50pm Town Treasurer Ronnie LaChance joined the meeting.

Siemens Project Update: Ray updated the Board about the project to have Siemens Building Technologies perform energy conservation improvements at Gill Elementary under an Energy Management Services Agreement (EMSA). Tupper Brown and Beth Greenblatt spent many hours reviewing and revising the EMSA that Siemens supplied, and the agreement is a far better document for the Town because of their efforts. Siemens accepted nearly all of the suggested changes, and the EMSA is now "almost signature ready". The Town is waiting for Siemens to update the Program Schedule and the Progress & Final Payments sections. Ray recommended the Board not sign the EMSA until more is known about how we will handle the long-term financing. If the EMSA is signed but financing cannot be found, we would then need to terminate the EMSA, and if that can be avoided, life is easier. If the Town doesn't contract with Siemens, it will need to pay the \$3,049 fee that is part of the Investment Grade Audit agreement.

The energy savings agreement between the Town and the Gill-Montague Regional School District has been agreed upon by administration, consultants, and legal counsel for both sides, and is ready for review and signatures from the Board and School Committee. The School Committee will receive the document at their April 12th meeting, but are

not expected to discuss it at any great length. It will be back on their agenda for April 26th, and Tupper and Ray will attend to answer any questions. The Selectboard will revisit this agreement on April 25th.

On the financing side of things, the total project cost is currently at \$275,484. After subtracting \$150,000 for the previously awarded EEBCG grant, and \$4,250 in WMECO lighting rebates, the Town will need long-term financing for \$121,234. The project is budget neutral (produces enough energy savings to pay the financing costs every year), but calls for a borrowing term of 20 years. This works for a USDA loan, but not for QECB bonds. The Board asked Ray to have Beth Greenblatt analyze the project to see if a 15-year payback is viable.

A preliminary application was submitted to the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loan Program on April 8th, and is being reviewed by officials there. David Detmold asked if an annual audit will be required as part of that loan, as he thought Wendell had found that out in one of their USDA loans. Ray will research the issue further.

Another possible financing option is to apply to the Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources (DOER) for funds from a Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds program they are administering. This is a federally authorized tax credit bond, which means the purchaser receives income tax credits rather than interest payments. If the Town can find a likely purchaser for a \$121,484 bond, then it could apply to DOER for an allocation. The Board encouraged Ray and Ronnie to contact local banks and any private businesses or citizens who might be interested. The QECB application to DOER is due April 22nd.

A final, last-ditch option is to scale back the project to just \$150,000 of energy improvements and use the EEBCG grant for a self-managed project. We would not sign the EMSA with Siemens, and would be responsible for the \$3,049 IGA separation fee. We would also lose the grant-funded technical consultant services from Beth Greenblatt. Up to \$15,000 of the EEBCG money could be used for project administration costs, which could include hiring the FRCOG to assist with procurement and hiring a part-time clerk of the works to oversee the project. In this option, because the EEBCG funds are limited to the boiler replacement and energy management system, lighting upgrades and building envelope improvements would need to be done as separate projects with their own financing plan.

Ronnie left the meeting at 5:38pm.

Review Articles for Annual Town Meeting: The Board reviewed a draft of 30 articles for the May 9th Annual Town Meeting. Ray noted that the draft is unordered, but the articles will be rearranged so that non-money issues are first and financial articles second. There was some discussion on whether a separate article is needed to approve any possible COLA, as departments are being asked to fund a 1.3% COLA within their level-funded budgets. One Board member felt that including a COLA within existing budgets amounts to a cut to services, and would prefer to allow voters to have a direct say in granting or denying a COLA. A possible scenario would be to remove COLA amounts from the department budgets in the Omnibus article, and have a separate article to vote on COLAs. Immediately after that article would be another article that, if the COLA passed, would be passed over, and if the COLA was defeated, would put those amounts back into the department budgets.

The Board also noted that the article seeking to increase the membership of the Ag Commission from 5 to 7 members was a good kind of problem for a committee to have – more people interested in serving than there are seats available. On the flip side of this situation was a petition article that was expected but not received – “to double the property tax assessment on any voter who does not attend Annual Town Meeting.” While the Board agreed that such a proposal is unlikely to be approved by the Dept. of Revenue or the Attorney General, it is a useful way of sending a wakeup call to the voters – we need your involvement in town affairs. A comment that the article creates “mandatory democracy” was received with laughter.

Skip's Roadside Diner: Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to renew and sign the 2011 food concession permit for Skip's Roadside Diner. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative and the license was signed.

Sewer Abatement: The Board, acting as Sewer Commissioner, granted an abatement to Jeff Suprenant for \$17.50 in sewer charges related to metered water used for filling a hot tub.

Rec Committee Lease with NMH: The Board reviewed a no-cost lease between the Gill Recreation Committee and NMH for the use of the NMH JV lacrosse field on Saturdays in April, May, and June. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the lease and authorize John to sign on behalf of the Town. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Municipal Conference: John, Randy and Ray attended Senator Rosenberg's annual Municipal Conference on April 9th. The main speakers were Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray and Senator Stephen Brewer, the Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The focus of the conference was on regionalization, and as Gill is actively involved in many of the services offered by the FRCOG, it was felt that we are for the most part on the cutting edge of regionalization efforts.

Conservation Commission Resignation: The Board received Keith Lilly's resignation from the Conservation Commission. Ray will send a letter thanking him for his service to the Town.

Chapter 90 Projects & Highway Bids: Ray reported that Gill's FY12 allotment of Chapter 90 Highway Aid will be \$152,763, which is up from \$118,034 in FY11. The Board reviewed two Chapter 90 project requests from Mick LaClaire, Highway Superintendent. One project, estimated at \$100,000, is to resurface the pavement on some or all of Riverview Drive, and Meadow, Pine, Grove, Oak and Myrtle Streets. The other is to oil and stone some or all of North Cross, Boyle, and Center Roads, at an estimated cost of \$60,000. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve and sign both project requests. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.


The Board reviewed telephone bids for catch basin cleaning and street sweeping. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to award street sweeping to J.W. Cotton at the low bid of \$104.50 per hour, and to award catch basin cleaning to National Watermain at the low bid of \$125.00 per hour contingent upon not receiving a lower price for catch basing cleaning from the Town of Montague. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and John signed the award forms.

7:20pm David Detmold left the meeting.

Warrant: Randy's son Michael, a Gill firefighter, appeared on the payroll warrant for this week. Due to the conflict of interest, Randy would normally abstain from signing the warrant. However, since two signatures are required to approve the warrant, the Board invoked the Rule of Necessity, which permitted Randy's participation and allowed the Board to act upon the warrant. The Board reviewed and signed FY11 Warrant #21.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

48 Boyle Rd.
Gill, MA 01854

Rita Detweiler, Principal
rdetweiler@gmrdsd.org

Phone: (413) 863-3255
Fax: (413) 863-3268

A Kindergarten through Sixth Grade Learning Community—Where every child is honored
April 6, 2011

Dear Gill Selectboard,

I am writing on behalf of the students and staff of Gill Elementary School to request an allocation of money from the Quintus Allen Fund. This year at Gill Elementary School we have undertaken a school-wide theme, *Journeys*, and our goal is to put on an all-school performance to culminate our work. During this performance, each class will perform a short piece related to this theme that also ties into their academic curriculum. The Gill Arts Committee, comprised of parents and staff, has met regularly to guide this process.

Understandably, there are costs associated with this type of production. I have already solicited funds from the Gill Cultural Council and received an \$800.00 grant. Our PTO has also contributed \$400.00. These funds cover the costs for the necessary art material. However, we would like to hire an artist-in-residence who will help students write scripts, write a script to tie the entire production together and help our students learn how to perform on stage. Our Arts Committee has already identified Court Dorsey, an artist who has worked with Gill Elementary School in past performances, as someone who can be our artist-in-residence for our current production.

Court Dorsey's proposal for his work with our students totals \$3,000.00. Based on that proposal, I request an allocation of funds from the Quintus Allen Fund to cover the cost of hiring Court Dorsey as our artist-in-residence for the remainder of this year. The Gill Arts Committee and the Gill School Council both support this request and are in agreement that this meets the spirit of the Quintus Allen fund which is to benefit the students of Gill Elementary School.

Due to tight financial budgets, Gill Elementary School has not been able to hire an artist-in-residence for many years and we hope you will support our request at this time.

Sincerely,



Rita Detweiler, Principal of Gill Elementary School

\$3,000 request approved by
Gill Selectboard 4/11/11.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

March 29, 2011

Ms. Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
425 Main Street, Room 20
Greenfield, MA 01301

Dear Phoebe,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is pleased to announce that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is receiving a Public Health District Incentive Planning Grant (PHDIG) in the amount of \$29,550.00 in response to the proposal submitted for RFR107212 for planning to develop the Franklin County Cooperative Health Services. A contract package for this amount will be forthcoming soon from the Department.

Half of your total funding for the planning grant will be sent to you as early as possible after we receive your completed package. The balance of funding will be provided early in July, contingent upon satisfactory progress with planning activities. You will be required to submit a very brief progress report on planning activities through June 30 to generate release of the balance of funds awarded. You will be contacted by mid April about the evaluation process for planning grant recipients and about other activities and technical assistance related to the PHDIG program.

All planning activities supported with MDPH funds must be completed by September 30, 2011. As a planning grant recipient, the Franklin County Cooperative Health Services will be eligible to apply for a five-year implementation grant through a separate Request for Responses process that will be conducted by MDPH. Proposals for implementation funding will be due by September 30, 2011. The Request for Responses for implementation funding will be released by May 31 to help inform your planning activities. If the Franklin County Cooperative Health Services does not submit an implementation grant proposal, you will be required to submit a report of activities conducted and your experience with the PHDIG program by October 31, 2011.

Congratulations on your award, and thank you for submitting a strong proposal. As noted in the PHDIG program Request for Responses that was posted to Comm-Pass on December 28, 2010, you are welcome and encouraged to reach out to additional municipalities to expand participation in the proposed Franklin County Cooperative Health Services. If you have any questions about the PHDIG program or your planning grant award, please contact me at (617) 624-6071 or geoff.wilkinson@state.ma.us. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.W. Wilkinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey W. Wilkinson
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Commissioner