



2005
ANNUAL
REPORT

Cover photo Courtesy of Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Cascades on Old extension of West Gill Rd.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
Officers and Committees



2005

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FEDERAL, STATE & COUNTY OFFICIALS

U. S. Senators	Edward M. Kennedy John F. Kerry
U. S. Representative	John W. Olver
Governor Lt. Governor	Mitt Romney Kerry Healey
State Senator	Stanley C. Rosenberg
State Representative	Christopher J. Donelan
Franklin Regional Executive Committee Council of Governments	John Paciorek, Chair Ann H. Banash, Vice Chair Sam Lovejoy, Secretary Christine Forgey - Appointed Bill Perlman - Elected

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term</i>
Board of Selectmen	Leland E. Stevens	2006
	Philip W. Maddern	2007
	Ann H. Banash	2008
<p>Note: Selectmen serve as Sewer Commissioners: Measurers of Wood, Bark & Surveyors of Lumber & Fence Viewers.</p>		
Field Driver	Clifford C. Hatch	2008
	Edward J. Golembeski	2008
Assessors	Donald LaChance 2/2005	2005
	Declined election 5/05	
	Gregory Snedeker 2/2005	2005
	Elected 5/05	2008
	Frederick S. Rutz	2006
	Resigned 6/3/2005	
	Joanne Greenleaf 7/11/05	2006

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Cemetery Commission	Beverly L. Demars	2007
	Patricia A. Hawkins	2006
	Carrie R. Stevens	2008
Constables	Fred O. Chase, II	2008
	Fred O. Chase III	2008
	Craig D. Gaudry	2008
Gill-Montague Regional School Committee	Theodore Castro-Santos	2008
	Sally Shaw	2007
	Valeria Smith	2006
Library Trustees	Ellen A. Johnson, Chairman	2006
	Susan J. Kramer	2007
	Ann C. Perry	2008
Moderator	Raymond F. Steele	2006
Board of Health	Douglas A. Edson, Chairman	2007
	Edward W. Galipault, Jr.	2008
	Randy P. Crochier	2006
Tax Collector	Veronica A. LaChance	2008
Town Clerk	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2006
Treasurer	Ellen M. Hastings	2007
	Resigned 9/1/05	
	Veronica A. LaChance 9/1/05	2006
Tree Warden	Ernest M. Hastings	2006

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

Accountant	Janet Swem, Accounting Program Director Franklin Regional Council of Govts.
Town Counsel	Donna MacNicol of MacNicol, Tombs & Brown
Administrative Assistant	Debra A. Roussel
Highway Superintendent	Mitchell LaClaire, Jr.

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

Building Commissioner	James Hawkins
Local Bldg. Inspector	James Cerone
Alternate Inspector	David Jensen
Electrical Inspector	Edward Marchefka
Gas Piping Inspector	Andy French
Plumbing Inspector	Andy French
Veterans' Agent	Leo Parent
Veteran's Grave Officer	William Huber
Fred W. Wells Trust	Frank J. Cutting
	PUBLIC SAFETY
Emergency Manager	Jason Edson resigned 12/2005 Gene Beaubien appointed 12/2005
Enhanced Municipal 911 Coordinator	Joseph Elliott, Jr.
Fire Chief	Gene Beaubien
Bd. of Engineers	Gene Beaubien Kenneth Sears Stuart Elliott Donald Crouse, Jr. Casey Bergeron Christopher Masloski Gary Parzych Stephen McConley, Jr.
Hazardous Waste Co-Ord.	Douglas Edson
Right-to-Know	Debra A. Roussel
Police Chief	David W. Hastings
Police Officers	Christopher Redmond, Sgt. Douglas Kaczmarczyk Christopher Bilodeau Robert Hunter Robert A. Whittier John Perreault Adam Sokoloski

Police Officers continued:	Nicole Fiske James Deery Melinda Shearer, Matron	
Animal Control Officer	Edward Ambo, Jr.	
DARE Officer	David W. Hastings	
Board of Appeals and Building Code Board of Appeals	Allen Tupper Brown Donald Brown Lawrence Underwood Barb Watson William Burnham	Resigned Resigned 2008 2007 2006
Board of Registrars	Allan Adie, Sr. Richard Peller Harriet A. Tidd Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2008 2007 2006 2006
Building Committee	Philip Maddern, Chair Edward Pogoda Ernest Hastings Richard French Edward Ambo, Jr. Roger Augustine	Resigned
Cable Adv. Committee	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo Frances Plausky Ernest Hastings Leland Stevens Richard James Donald Kruger	2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006
Community Development Committee	Ann Banash Sandy Brown Tupper Brown Richard French Suzanne Smiley Carrie Stevens Gary Bourbeau Anthony Mathews	
Conservation Commission	Anthony Mathews Edward Pogoda Keith Lilly Ted Castro-Santos Ken Sprankle	2007 2006 2007 2006 2006

**APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**

Council on Aging	Harriet A. Tidd, Chair	2007
	John Krejmas	2006
	Oleathia Prevett	2006
	Joseph Girard	2005
	Joseph Naida	2009
	Beverly Demars	2008
	Jim Greenleaf	2008
Cultural Council	Elizabeth Gardner	2007
	Lissa Greenough	2007
	Kathleen Augustine	2008
	Sandra Brown	2006
	Ellen Keech	2006
	Marilyn Odeh	2007
	Veronica LaChance	2006
Fr. County Bikeway	Susan LaScala	2006
Fr. County Inspection Program	Debra Roussel	2006
Fr. Regional Transit	James Poulsen	2006
Historical Commission	Cristin Carpenter, Chair	2008
	Richard French	2007
	Mary Anne Bauer	2006
	Pam Shoemaker	2007
	Robert Perry	2006
	Beverly Demars	2007
	Stuart Elliott	2007
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2008
Memorial Committee	Beverly Demars	Resigned
	Gary Bourbeau	2008
Open Space Committee	Thomas Storrow	
	Richard French	
	Anthony Mathews	
	Robert Perry	
	Beverly Demars	
	Kenneth Garber	
	Clifford Hatch	
	Sue Ward	
Sally Shaw		

**APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**

Planning Board	Suzanne M. Smiley, Chair	2006
	Gary Bourbeau	2006
	Robert Perry	2008
	Shirley Flagg	2007
	Douglas Smith	2008
	John Duda	2007
	Tim Storrow	2009
Solid Waste Dist. Comm.	Arthur Cohen	2006
Veteran's District	Pat Haigis	2006

APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

Animal Inspector	Tari Grimard	2006
Burial Agent	Harriet A. Tidd	2006

APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR

Finance Committee	Sandra Brown, Chair	Resigned 6/2/2005
	Paul H. Nowill	2008
	Raymond Garbiel	2006
	William Tomb	Resigned 3/21/05
	Margaret Connell	Resigned 6/7/005
	Paul Worthington	2007
	Ed Delhante	2007
	Veronica LaChance	2007
	Joe Williams	2007

Franklin Cty. Technical School Committee	Clifford C. Hatch	2007
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Gill/Montague Advisory Committee		Vacant
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Personnel Committee	Debra Roussel	Admin Assistant	
	<i>Selectman</i>	Ann Banash	Resigned 1/2005
		Leland Stevens	2006
<i>Finance Committee</i>	Sandra Brown	Resigned 1/2005	
	Raymond Garbiel	2006	
<i>Employee Rep.</i>	David W. Hastings, Chair	2006	
	Maggie Striebel	Resigned 1/2005	
	Kristi Tognarelli	2006	

Recreation Committee	Nathan Duda, Chair	2006
	John Duda	2008
	Tamra Little	2007
	Rose Levasseur	2007
	Charlene Vaughn	2007

GILL VITAL STATISTICS 2005 BIRTHS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Parents</u>
May 1	Tea Saraswati Blueberry	Laura (Carboni)Carboni-Pietras Christopher Mark Pietras
June 4	Olivia Noelle Vassar	Kerri Jean Vassar (Recore) Gabriel Latham Vassar
June 5	Kole Scott Broderick	Tara Ann (Barrett) Scott Richard Broderick
June 8	Hazel Elizabeth Reeder	Mary Zita (Farrell) David Henry Reeder
June 24	Robert Joseph Murphy	Carrie Elizabeth (Task) Theodore Edward Murphy
July 11	Brendan Linehan Logan	Bridget Anne (Linehan) Adrian Everett Logan
July 27	Anna Rose Baskowski	Carolyn (Bell) Baskowski Stephen Francis Baskowski
August 8	Julian Amari Smith	Dara Monifa (Adams) Ronald Renee Smith
August 20	Jacob William LaPointe	Wendy Robin (Melnik) Aaron Jay LaPointe
August 25	Djibril Diaw	Siga (Thiombane) Gorgi Ousmane Diaw
September 1	Owen Ajay LaValley	Julie Melinda (Fuller) Paul Robert LaValley
November 6	Britney Marie Zager	Peggy Marie (McCulloch) Anthony Michael Zager
December 13	Zachary Paul Lotze	Tabatha Ann (Trotter) Gregory Scott Lotze

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

GILL VITAL STATISTICS 2005

MARRIAGES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
June 18, 2005	Frank Arden Brunault Teresa Lynn Garland
August 20, 2005	David Michael Manning Caroline Page Raybuck

DEATHS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
February 7, 2005	John G. Burnham
February 17, 2005	Bernard E. Fowler, Jr.
March 3, 2005	Beth Barker Bidwell
June 16, 2005	Joseph John Niedbala, Jr.
July 9, 2005	Russell Thompson
August 4, 2005	William Hubert Gaines
September 15, 2005	Felix P. Zinkewicz
November 7, 2005	Janet Marie Lata
November 30, 2005	Olethia Mae Prevett
December 1, 2005	Joseph Alcide Girard

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

TOWN OFFICIALS



GILL FLAG IN STATE HOUSE

BOARDS

AND

COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD

Gill accommodating the exclusive campus of NMH should provide a unique partnership opportunity for both the school and residents. While significant staff reductions and attrition in three phases over the calendar year brought major changes in the way things are accomplished at the private school, new construction to accommodate the single campus included new student-faculty residences and plans for a new center for the arts. Collaboration between executive boards brought forward unique ideas, including broader availability of the arts and recreational facilities for residents, greater volunteerism by staff and students on town boards/committees and the possibility of providing practical expertise in areas such as building maintenance and capital planning. The Selectboard urged NMH officials to identify the 01354 zip code as their main address to assist in funding opportunities such as Chapter 90 grant funds for road improvements, based in part on the number of employees that work in a community.

The spark that ignited residents, a planning charrette held led by Dr. John Mullin of the University of Massachusetts, along with colleagues Dr. Zenia Kotval and Glenn Garber on December 13, 2004 brought forward assorted visions for the 12-acre parcel known as the Mariamante land. Participants collaborated on identification of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, maintaining the existing rural character of the town was crucial in guiding future development. An ad hoc committee formed to continue the planning process, working with graduate students from the UMass School of Landscape and Architecture. The group mapped out alternatives, working to identify the next steps in the process. The student team met with the ad hoc committee on a regular basis, whose input has been vital in directing the team's research and in the formulation of the report. The study group explored three development scenarios for this project – mixed-use commercial and residential, general office space or an assisted living facility. Of the three, an assisted living facility was considered the most viable alternative at this time. Such a facility would be a solid means of tax generation, without having an attendant drain on town services. It would also serve an identified need within the town, namely an aging population in need of housing. The two other options identified were more time-intensive and revealed a softer market. Interim uses were identified while development of the land takes shape, suggesting agricultural use continues.

An archeological survey to explore the first phase of analysis to determine the archeological significance of the property was recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee before the land was presented for sale through a request for proposal (RFP) process and led to the appropriation of funds at a Special Town Meeting in November. As the calendar year closes, the Selectboard is awaiting results of the survey.

An initiative by the Selectboard, in collaboration with the Planning Board, to

update Gill's zoning was assisted by a Peer-to-Peer Grant with Deborah Dachos, Agawam Planning Director providing technical assistance through the Department of Housing and Community Development grant. The main force of changes was to transfer authority from the Planning Board to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Special Permit and Site Plan review, allowing the Planning Board to take on the serious charge of long and short term planning. Changes included a proposal to include a reduction in membership for the Planning Board from seven to five members and increasing the Zoning Board of Appeals from three to five, assuming the two Planning Board members would migrate to the ZBA to assist in the learning curve. After months of meetings between ZBA, Planning Board, Selectboard members the changes were brought to a Public Hearing. Slight changes were made in language and the changes were to be voted on at a Special Town Meeting scheduled for January of 2006.

Late in the calendar year, the Town learned we had been awarded another State grant from the MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to continue the work of revising zoning bylaws. This Smart Growth Grant will provide technical assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to address the real meat and potatoes of the town's zoning bylaws. Initial proposals include the possibility of a commercial district, changes to the table of uses and possible elimination of the residential zone limited to Mountain Road, all suggestions coming from the Town's Community Development Plan it completed a year ago.

Excess in the Gill-Montague Excess and Deficiency fund over the allowed 5% of the total fund returned over \$135,000 to the Town of Gill and was appropriated for much needed capital improvements at Annual Town Meeting rather than request further raise and appropriation from Town Meeting.

The Main Road North project, a replacement of the base road from Wood Avenue to the Northfield Line, was finally completed on the part of the town, found federal funding and was put out to bid by MA Highway and is awaiting award as the calendar year closes. Actual construction is slated to begin in the summer of 2006.

The Selectboard continued negotiations throughout the year on the renewal for lease of the Gill Elementary School with the Gill/Montague Regional School District School Superintendent. Final agreement was reached at the conclusion of the calendar year.

The Four Winds School, an alternative middle school renewed their lease for two rooms of the Riverside Municipal Building, increasing the price per square footage received from \$5 to \$6, to cover the soaring costs of fuel and electricity bills. The Gill Historical Commission and the Riverside Water District continue to share the front office space without expenditure.

Sewer user fees remained at \$.0850 per cubic foot. The sewer budget is paid

entirely by the users and the sewer usage rate is based on 90% of the household's water usage. The Riverside Water District submits usage information to the Town for the quarterly sewer bills.

A new liquor license for beer and wine service was issued by the Selectboard to the Wagon Wheel Drive-In on French King Highway. Another request for a transfer of a package store beer and wine license was received and approved from the sale of the Gill Store from Philip and Susan Maddern to Second Wind Ventures, a corporation whose articles of incorporation show Lissa Greenough and Alden Booth of Gill as coowners with Manager Vicki VanZee.

Emergency Manager Jason Edson, a member of our fire department resigned after barely one year of service to Gill. While Emergency Manager may be a service we take for granted, hoping it never comes to a need, it is an immense responsibility, requiring countless meetings, report requirements and we thank him for his service to his community. Chief Gene Beaubien agreed to takeover the important task until a replacement could be found.

Upon notification by the Town Clerk that long-time treasurer Ellen Hastings had resigned her position effective September 1, 2005 due to work conflicts, the Selectboard appointed Tax Collector Veronica LaChance as temporary treasurer until such time as an election can be held, which will be the annual election scheduled for May of 2006.

The town of Montague decided it no longer wanted to share the responsibility and cost of providing recycling pickup to the Town of Gill. Gill had shared ownership, or at least the cost of ownership of several recycling trucks over the years and paid the Town of Montague for the service of pickup once a week. This arrangement was put in place many, many years ago to replace the transfer station that existed at the Safety Complex building. After negotiation and discussion with Franklin County Solid Waste District and our current solid waste disposal contractor, Duseau Trucking, the Board signed a contract for Duseau to pick up both recycling and solid waste for the Town of Gill effective July 1, 2005. Montague continued to allow residents use of their transfer station for bulky items not picked up curbside through the end of the calendar year while negotiations took place for a county-wide agreement with the Town of Greenfield.

The Select Board spends many hours over and above their regular meeting attendance in the functioning of their post. In addition to serving as Chair for the first half of the calendar year, Philip Maddern took over as Chair after the Town's annual election, serves as the Board's representative to the Building Committee and Gill-Montague Regional School District Ad Hoc Maintenance Committee. Ann Banash also serves in a regionally elected position on the Franklin Regional Council of Government's (FRCOG) Executive Committee, acting as its Vice Chair. Ann maintains a regional presence for Gill as our representative to the Rt. 2 Task Force, and as Co-Chair of the Building Committee for the TFHS/GFMS addition/renovation project, which functions

until the audit and reimbursement from the State is complete. Leland Stevens serves on the Personnel Board, Cable Advisory Committee, as Gill's representative to the FRCOG's Council and on the negotiating committee for the Gill Montague Regional School District,. Board members also attend functions for organizations that provide support for city and town government, like the Franklin County Selectboard Association or the Massachusetts Municipal Association. In addition, each member serves as liaison to town departments, Philip to the Highway, Ann the Police and Leland the Fire Department. The Administrative Assistant Deb Roussel serves as the Town's representative to the Franklin County Inspection Program in addition to representing the Town at functions statewide. Deb also serves on the program committee for the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts, an association that provides support to administrative personnel in towns under 10K population.

The Board of Selectmen meet every other Monday at 5:00 p.m. Agenda items are arranged in advance through the Administrative Assistant Debra Roussel.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Maddern,
Chairman

**Lou Chappell providing the escort
Montague Anniversary Parade**

ASSESSORS' REPORT FOR 2005

GROSS AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$2,336,069.26
LESS ESTIMATED RECEIPTS & REVENUES	730,808.26
NET TO BE RAISED	\$1,605,261.10

VALUATION

REAL ESTATE	\$110,007,525
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$2,170,050
TOTAL	\$112,177,575
TAX RATE	\$14.31

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE COMMITMENTS

2004	\$10,147.87
2005	\$187,744.01
TOTAL	\$197,891.88

MVE ABATEMENTS

2004 IN 2005	\$1,204.10
2005 in 2005	\$4,318.00
TOTAL	\$5,522.10

REAL ESTATE ABATEMENTS

Veterans	\$3,100.00
Clause 42	3,217.47
Clause 41C	4,500.00
Chapter 59	14,786.05
TOTAL	\$25,603.52

ASSESSORS' REPORT FOR 2005

The Annual report of the Gill Board of Assessors is herewith submitted to the citizens of the Town of Gill for the Year 2005.

During the calendar year 2005, Fred Rutz was no longer able to continue as Assessor . JoAnn Greenleaf volunteered and was appointed by the Selectboard in July to replace Fred. She brings her knowledge and experience as Assessors' Assistant for Montague to Gill. Greg Snedecker, elected 2005 as Assessor and JoAnn have committed themselves to seeing as many properties as possible and exploring ways to improve the assessing process in the town of Gill.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo was appointed Assessor's Clerk in July when Harriet A. Tidd retired after serving Gill as Assessors' Clerk for nearly forty years since 1966. We acknowledge her life of dedication to the matters of Gill in the Assessor's office during those years.

Greg was elected in 2005 for 3 years. JoAnn was appointed until the next election when there will be two open terms as one Assessors position has remained vacant.

The Board of Assessors continue to have public hours on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM to answer questions the residents may have. It is helpful to set up an appointment to talk to the Board. The Assessors office is open and a clerk is available from 9:30 A.M. to noon Monday through Thursday to answer questions and set up appointments. It is helpful to call ahead to make requests.
(413)863-0138

Board of Assessors
JoAnn Greenleaf
Gregory Snedecker

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2005**

The FY 2006 budget experienced growth from uncontrollable health care, fuel costs, and from debt service on the new high school and school renovations. This means that taxes had to go up even though these were little real increase in services. The cost of the new high school will be over 90% reimbursed by the State. The public safety and public works budgets grew at about 24%. The following Department budgets for FY 2006 were approved at the last regular Town meeting.

Category	Percentage Increase						Approved Budget
	FY '01	FY '02	FY '03	FY '04	FY '05	FY '06	
General Government	1%	2%	4%	-16%	6%	60%	\$256,549
Public Safety	29	17	13	17	10	19	247,089
Education	12	8	10	22	-3	-8	1,171,241
Public Works	17	-12	1	-1	10	27	455,585
Human Services	12	-5	9	7	41	-7	19,645
Culture & Recreation	37	3	2	10	3	7	18,962
Debt Service	-2	-1	-9	-3	-19	NM	172,123
Insurance & Misc.	53	-3	9	141	51	-32	124,230

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all those departments that worked with it to evaluate the budgets, and to especially thank Ronnie LaChance and Debra Roussel for their extra support. I also wish to thank all the members of the Committee who dedicated their time to help the Town's budgeting process.

Respectfully submitted
Paul Nowill
Chairman

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Gill Fire Department responded to 205 calls in 2005, this is up from 174 last year. We responded 16 times for mutual aid to surrounding towns, and received mutual aid 5 times.

The Fire Department again this year applied for a \$2000.00 grant from the State of Massachusetts DEM for \$2000.00 matching grant to purchase brush fire related equipment. The grant was reduced to \$1,468.97. This reduction was due to the increased number of Fire Departments applying for the grant and our past success, our award was reduced to allow other departments the funding. With this grant we were able to purchase a new portable folding tank, a chain saw, and protective brush fire clothing for the firefighters.

The State of Mass Department of Public Safety once again appropriated monies to distribute to local fire departments for equipment. This year the Gill Fire Department received \$15,000.00 from this grant. With this money we were able to purchase a compressor to refill our cascade system. This compressor is a system that is filtered and approved for SCBA breathing air.

In September of 2005 the Fire Department received the grant that we applied for, a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant for \$55703.00. This money will be used to purchase mobile radios for all the fire apparatus, a portable radio for every seat on the truck, and one for every officer. These radios are necessary because of the new county radio system that is going to use a high band radio system with a simulcast and repeater system. This will give all fire departments in the Tri-State Fire Mutual system the ability to communicate better and to communicate with other agencies (police) for a complete inter-operable system. We will also purchase a head set intercom system for the 3 first trucks out of the station. This will enable the officer and driver to communicate with the dispatch center while en-route to a call and also enable the officer or driver of the truck to communicate with the other firefighters on the truck

The SAFE program was reinstated in the State Budget, and the Gill Fire Department applied for and received a 100%

grant of \$3,017.27. This money is used for Fire Prevention/ Education in the community, purchasing SAFE T- shirts for all pre k-6th grade children and bus transportation for the 5th and 6th grade to come to the fire station. We also purchase handouts for distribution to the community and videos for presentation during the fire prevention week.

The Gill Fire Department continued our aggressive fire prevention program for our elementary school and pre-schools. Over a period of one week we visit the schools and have discussions about fire prevention and what to do if you have a fire. With the early grades we have the students practice stop-drop and roll. We have a firefighter don his firefighting gear to show that we are not “monsters”, so that if they see us in a fire they come to us and we will rescue them. In the 5th grade we have the class come to the fire station and explain about smoke and ventilation. We then fill the meeting room with a candy smoke to give the students a chance to see a smoke filled environment and how easy it is to get disoriented. The 6th grade also comes to the station and we explain the different classes of fire extinguishers and the proper use of them. We then light some live fires and let the students put them out using extinguishers donated by Dependable Fire and Safety of Greenfield. After the end of the training, each child is given a SAFE T-shirt.

I would like to thank all the firefighters who help make this Fire Prevention Week a great success.

During one of our trainings with our “Jaws of Life,” the spreaders broke. The parts for these old spreaders are unavailable. When I discussed this with the Selectboard they were concerned that we had replaced the cutters last year because of breakage and that the power unit is also 15 years old. We then received quotes on a new set. This was approved by the Selectboard and then voted on at the Town Meeting. The Jaws have arrived and have been put in service.

The fire department continues to train every Thursday night. During these Thursday night trainings the firefighters check all the trucks and equipment to make sure they are in good working order. We then go out and do practical training including ladder training, pumping, fire tactics and simulated fires, and search and rescue, just to name a few. I would like to thank my Training Officers Stu Elliott, Ken Sears, Gary Parzych and

Chuck Crouse for all their hard work in planning these training nights. The fire department members also continue to devote a lot of their own time for training. These hours spent on training are all unpaid. This means a lot of nights out away from families. We continue to utilize the Mass Firefighting Academy training programs. They are offered throughout the state and open to any firefighter. Meadowood Training facility in New Hampshire has been re-opened and offers training. We are trained by MEMA in radiological monitoring and decontamination procedures in case of an event at Vermont Yankee Power Plant. The trainings take place for communities within the ten-mile radius of Vermont Yankee. They are monitored by FEMA, and their evaluators score us. This past year I went to National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland for weekend training. On November 28, 2005 10 Gill firefighters participated in live fire training at the Springfield Fire training facility,

This past March we were involved in the Vermont Yankee exercise required by the NRC. Once again the Town of Gill received a positive report with no deficiencies in our plan or ability to protect the community in an event the Vernon Facility has a problem.

Every year the Gill Firemen's Association sponsors the annual Halloween party for all children of Gill. Again this past year it was a success and I would like to thank my wife, Dorri, and Maureen Parzych for planning this event.

We are still looking for volunteers for the fire department. If you are interested in becoming a member please stop by the fire station any Thursday night and talk to us about it. We provide the training and gear; you provide the willingness.

It is time for the town to realize that we are a growing community and therefore I will be again requesting a fulltime daytime firefighter position for FY-07. This was not supported by the Selectboard or finance committee for FY-06. Due to the number of volunteers working out of town, there is often a delay in a response.

Last year we applied for a FEMA grant to replace our 1979 Ford tanker. We have received word that we were turned down. In light of this the Town needs to start putting money away so that we can purchase a new vehicle in the year 2009, when this vehicle reaches 30yrs. The Town had agreed to replace

a truck every ten years so every truck will be in service for 30 years.

In November of 2006 Jason Edson stepped down as Emergency Management Director for the Town of Gill. The Selectboard appointed me as the new EMD.

In closing, my thanks to the officers and firefighters of this department for their help and support over the last year. Thanks also to their spouses, children, and significant others for giving up your husband, wife, father, mother to the Fire Department each week...in the middle of the night, middle of dinner.

And thanks to the many townspeople who have shown their support for the job we try to do for you. Thanks to Mickey, Ed and George from the highway department, and Dave and Chris and their officers for their support during the past year.

Also thanks to my wife, Dorri, for her understanding and help throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene M. Beaubien
Fire Chief

Grants Acquired by the Gill Fire Department for FY-06

Grantee	Grantee Share	Town Share (NMH Fund)	Acquisition
Dept of Conservation	\$ 1,468.97	\$1,468.97	Brush Fire Gear
FENA/SAFE Grant	3,017.29	0.00	Fire Prevention
FEMA	52,918.00	2,785.00	New Radio System
State Of Mass EOPS	6,000.00	0.00	New Radio System
State Of Mass EOPS	15,000.00	0.00	New Air Compressor
Total	\$78,404.26	\$4,253.97	

**Fire Department
Annual Call Report**

Medical Emergency	79	38.54%		
Alarm Sounding	29	14.15%		
Mutual Aid Out	16	7.80%		
Motor Vehicle Crash	12	5.85%		
Water In Basement	11	5.37%	Mutual Aid Out	
Public Service	8	3.90%	Vernon	2
Fire Prevention Acti- vities	6	2.93%	Greenfield	2
Assist PD with Search	5	2.44%	Heath	1
Possible Jumper	5	2.44%	Bernardston	3
Wires Down	5	2.44%	Erving	4
Smoke Investigation	4	1.95%	Deerfield	3
Chimney Fire	3	1.46%	Northfield	1
Motor Vehicle Fire	3	1.46%		
Water Rescue	2	0.98%	TOTAL MA	16
Structure Fire	2	0.98%		
Ammonia Leak	1	0.49%		
Assist Ballonist	1	0.49%		
Assist Boater	1	0.49%		
Brush fire	1	0.49%		
Furnace Malfunction	1	0.49%		
Illegal Burn	1	0.49%		
Oil Slick in River	1	0.49%		
Oven Fire	1	0.49%		
Over Due Boater	1	0.49%		
Utility Pole Fire	1	0.49%		
Possible Electrical Fire	1	0.49%		
Haz Mat	1	0.49%		
Smell in Residence	1	0.49%		
Storm Coverage	1	0.49%		
Elevator Rescue	1	0.49%		
 TOTAL CALLS	 205	 100%		

Police Department

As 2005 comes to a close, it is apparent the police department has experienced a significant increase in calls for service that would require a report from 423 in 2004 to 509 in 2005. The total arrests made in the Town of Gill remained consistent in the last year, as well as the number of accidents involving more than \$1000 worth of damage. Civil motor vehicle infraction in which fines were attached remained consistent, while the Department issued an additional 100 written warnings to operators who traveled thru the Town of Gill.

The Gill Police Department once again received funding thru the Governors Highway Safety Bureau for the 5th year in a row. The funds were to specifically add patrols for motor vehicle enforcement of Speeding, Seat belt violations and Drinking and Driving. We at the Police Department remind all residents to Buckle Up before leaving the driveway and please remain sober when operating a motor vehicle.

Training to keep the department officers up to date was a high priority. In January, Sgt Redmond and Chief Hastings attended Executive Leadership Training presented by The Municipal Police Institute. In February, Chief Hastings along with four other local Chiefs received training by the FBI for New England Law Enforcement Executive Development held in Connecticut. All officers received training in Update Motor Vehicle Law enforcement, Criminal Harassment and Elder Abuse. Annual Firearms training took place in August with the assistance of The Friends of Gill, purchasing ammunition for the department. Officer Kaczmarczyk attended Elder Protective Services training in October.

Sgt Redmond and Chief Hastings assisted with the "Together Everyone Achieves More" program presented at Gill Montague Regional High School, featuring Dr. Bill Cosby Jr. Chief Hastings also assisted with the TRIAD Fishing Derby for area youths at Barton's Cove.

Officer Sokoloski participated in the Montague Old Home Days Parade representing the Gill Police Department and received a letter of thanks for assisting residents out of a snow bank with their motor vehicle. A Letter of Thanks to Chief

Hastings regarding an accident after the operator crashed due to a medical situation. Sgt Redmond received a card of thanks for opening a locked motor vehicle with a newborn child inside. In April, Chief Hastings, Sgt Redmond and Officer Kaczmarczyk received letters of thanks after participation in "Operation Slow Burn". This operation, headed by the Franklin County Drug Task Force involved a sweep of 60 + street level drug dealers in our area. Officer Coughlin received a letter of thanks for his care and quick response to a medical situation on Center Rd, this was his second day on patrol for the Town of Gill.

A False Alarm Policy was placed in effect by the Board of Selectman for the Police department in an attempt to cut down on the amount of false responses for the Police.

Other points of interest for the residents of Gill: Pistol Permit Application are taken on Tuesday evening by appointment between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM. During the month of November, we in the town along with other Franklin County communities were struck with a number of House Breaks. The department again recommends locking all doors and windows in your homes. Taking note and calling the police when strange or unusual vehicles are in the area, or strangers.

It was with great regret we accepted the resignation of Officer Robert Whittier. Bob had been with the department since August of 2000, however felt he could not provide the department with the normal level of commitment he would due to a new management position in his full time job. Officers James Deery and Scott Waldron both from the Riverside section of Gill joined the police force in 2005. We welcome these residents onto the department.

I wish to express many thanks to the townspeople of Gill for their continued support of our department in our efforts to provide you with the safest community possible. Thanks also goes out to all department heads for our consistent communication between all town employees. Our Selectboard should never go without thanks for their never quit attitude in helping our town exist in these very money conscience times.

Respectfully Submitted:

David W. Hastings, Chief of Police

Police Reports:

Police Reports	509
Arrests	53
Accidents (over \$1,000)	32
Total Reports:	594

Traffic Citations:

Civil Infractions:	403
Written Warnings	420
Criminal Comp/Arrest	13
Total:	836

Crime Statistics:

felonies	63
misdemeanors	85
arrests	53
Total crime offenses	201

Calls Dispatched by Shelburne Control: 1175

Summary (not inclusive)

209A Service	4
911 Hang Up/Misdial	33
Abandoned Motor Vehicle	6
General Burglar Alarm/Hold-up	41
Animal Complaint	28
Breaking and Entering	12
Check the Welfare	20
Disturbance	12
Disabled Motor Vehicle	49
Domestic	3
Drunk	3
General Investigation	21

Larceny	10
Medical Emergency	34
Missing Person	2
Miscellaneous	20
Motor Vehicle Accident	50
Motor Vehicle Complaint	48
Motor Vehicle - Stolen	3
Noise Complaint	6
Officer Wanted	29
Suspicious Persons	9
Suspicious Activity	8
Suspicious Vehicle	36
Trespass	3
Unwanted Person	6
Vandalism	9
Grand Total of calls	505

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

I would like to thank the Police Department, the Highway Department and the Selectboard for their support. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind people that their dogs must be licensed every year. The Town Clerk offers the service through the mail for your convenience. All you need is proof of rabies vaccine. Also, a friendly reminder of the leash law; it is for your pet's safety as well as harmony with your neighbors. IF YOU LOVE IT...LEASH IT. Thank you.

Loose Dogs	12	Loose Livestock	1
Dog Bites	2	Assist Bernardston PD	1

Respectfully submitted,
Edward M. Ambo, Jr.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

I would like to start this year's report by saying thank you to the citizens of the Town of Gill. It is an honor to serve as the highway superintendent in such a great community.

This past year we have seen some changes in highway department personnel with the addition of George Emery. George is from Montague and brings with him a wide variety of knowledge in building and mechanical repair, as well as a good sense of humor.

Highway funds were used this past year to patch, seal and repair roads, paint guide lines, continue to maintain dirt roads, mow roadsides, replace signs, fix guardrails and posts. We also used funds to repair equipment, sweep and clean catch basins, plow and sand roads, maintain and repair town buildings. This year we were able to completely road side mow all the town roads as well as mow the town owned land off West Gill Rd.

The highway dept has done many repairs in 2005 on town owned buildings. We completely rebuilt the front steps and porch on the Town Hall using the best possible materials that will last for a long duration of time. By having our employees doing this project we saved the town roughly twelve thousand dollars in construction costs had a contractor been hired. We also have constructed office space inside the town hall as well as completely remodeling the kitchen. Other town buildings have also been maintained, we repaired the slate roof on the library and pointing the mortar on the block walls. At the public safety complex we installed shelving in the police dept and installed new weather strips on the doors, as well as reconstructing drainage and repaving the driveway. We also repaired and repaved the lower parking lot at the elementary school.

The highway road sealing program continued this past year with 6/10 of a mile on North Cross Rd, 8/10 of a mile on Center Rd, 6/10 on South Cross Rd, 1/10 of a mile on Cove View Lane and

3/10 of a mile of new work on Barney Hale Rd. we installed 600 feet of sub drainage and a basin on Center Rd and 175 feet of sub drain and a basin on Main Rd.

Chapter 90 funds were used this year to shim and pave 1.1 mile of Main Rd from # 106 to #198 with 1-1/2" overlay. We installed 276 feet of new guardrails as well as basins. This is a continuation of the paving cycle program designed to keep the town roads in such good shape.

I would like to conclude this years report with a special thank you to the part time employees of the highway department, for their help during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell L. LaClaire Sr
Highway Superintendent

**2005 ANNUAL REPORT GILL
Board Of Health**

The Board of Health was busy this year with septic system upgrades and new construction. TITLE V inspections are required at the time of all property transfers; these inspections are all reviewed by the board to insure that the systems meet Title V or appears to be a properly functioning system installed prior to the latest Title V regulations. Septic systems do not have to meet Title V standards if they appear to continue to operate as the design called for at the time of design.

Ernie Hastings continues assisting the Board as the alternate septic inspector. This service is very much appreciated by the board, we would like to thank him.

Many thanks to Deb Roussel for her assistance over the year, without the assistance of Deb we would not be able to accomplish all that needs to be done.

Respectfully Submitted,
Douglas Edson, Chairman, Board of Health

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of our town buildings and grounds. The Town continues to outsource maintenance of town grounds. The Highway Department continues to provide the town maintenance of our town buildings (as weather permits), saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in outsourcing costs. The only segment that we contract out is grounds maintenance, mowing and shoveling, since the Town does not have the manpower available within current staffing levels.

Town Hall – The Building Committee utilized the talent of our Highway Department at the Town Hall this calendar year. Reconstruction of the front steps and overhang was completed by late spring, providing a truly aesthetic addition to the front of the building, that should last indefinitely utilizing recycled plastic lumber while keeping with the character of the building.

Many different scenarios were looked at to deal with the need for ventilation and dehumidification of the lower level of Town Hall after a bout with mold early in the calendar year. Recommendations for air ventilation that continuously introduced fresh air in conjunction with air conditioning and dehumidification in higher humidity months were reviewed. However, cost estimates went well beyond available funds and it was decided to try installation of a sump pump contained in a pit on each end of the building along with purchase of a commercial dehumidifier. Moisture is piped outside to catch basins and alleviate a great deal of the moisture. Construction planned for early in the next calendar year before spring rains to test the configuration.

Garage Public Safety Complex – Each department housed in the building maintains their own section within the facility. The entrance to the Police Department was made handicapped accessible and a secure evidence room was constructed within an existing office with the talent of the Highway Department. Door trim was replaced on the overhead doors throughout the building.

Riverside Municipal Building – RMB building as it is referred, continues to house the Gill Historical Commission and Riverside Water District and lease two rooms to Four Winds School, a private middle school. Fireproof sheetrock was added to the boiler room, required by an annual inspection for occupancy. No other work was performed in the building beyond usual annual maintenance. The need to paint the outside of the building and replace caulking and/or replacement windows has also been discussed.

Slate Library – Building Committee members joined with library trustees for emergency repairs to the rear entry to the building, stone stairway, slate roof and replace crumbling mortar in the chimney. Discussions on the merits of waterproofing the basement continues, as does the possibility of removing the suspended ceiling and installing ceiling fan(s) to return the main part of the library to its original grandeur.

The Committee is still working on a maintenance schedule to be included in a capital management plan. Our buildings are major resources for the town, however if left untended can quickly become a burden.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip W. Maddern
Chairman

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee, consisting of six members from different sections of town completed its negotiations with Comcast. There were several meetings attempting to give the town as much expansion as possible, reaching as many residents as possible and especially prioritizing service to those who had come forward to request the service. We also sought the help of legal counsel to insure that whatever inclusions the town was entitled to, were covered by the contract.

This license renewal contract is effective for ten years from August 17, 2005, expiring August 17, 2015. Members were able to negotiate for extensions of service to Dole Road, West Gill Road, North Cross Road, Munns Ferry Road and Grout Road. Gill will also receive its own television channel and funding from Comcast for Public Education Government (PEG) Access. The funding will include an initial set up payment and subsequent supportive payments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leland Stevens, Chairman
Rick James
Don Kruger
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Ernest Hastings
Fran Plausky

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Commissioners continue to work with Roberge Associates of Greenfield, MA, who have laid out future gravesites in NORTH and WEST GILL cemeteries. We also listed the names on all the gravestones in the older sections on the surveys. This has been very helpful to researchers who are trying to find their ancestor's burial sites. The former Commissioners left us a fairly good map of the newer burial sites in CENTER Cemetery, but the gravestones in the older section will need to be added to the map.

The Highway Department will move a section of the road in NORTH Cemetery to accommodate additional gravesites and will bury cement markers in both cemeteries to line up the new burial areas.

All three town cemeteries now have new signs made by Hale's Custom Signs of Greenfield. The town highway crew was kind enough to install the signs, plus an additional cemetery sign for the intersection at West Gill and Hoe Shop Roads.

This past summer, gravestones in Gill and other small towns were defaced by a person trying to read the names on each gravestone. This person then took a picture of each gravestone and tried to sell those pictures to the Commissioners. We immediately contacted other towns to warn them, but many of the cemeteries had already suffered damage. We also contacted our insurance company, but were told we could not claim any funds because the Town does not own the gravestones. After contacting legal counsel, we were advised that with the cost of an attorney and other legal fees, the cost would be greater than doing the cleanup ourselves, and the chance of winning a court case was very slim.

The Cemetery Commissioners would like to give a big thank you to Mr. John Woodard and his Community Service participants for doing a fine job of clearing brush around the perimeters of the town cemeteries. We would also like to thank Allan and Danny Flagg for their efforts in trimming the brush at NORTH cemetery

and the town highway crew for all their hard work.

Richard Bassett and his crew continue to take very good care of our cemeteries. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Cemetery Commissioners

Annual Report of the Gill Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission continued to review logging plans, construction plans and related activities for their potential impacts to wetland habitats or known populations of threatened or endangered species. Order of conditions were developed for some permitted projects that protected resources of concern (primarily wetlands) and allowed the requested projects to proceed. New rules regarding the installation of culverts were passed that recognize the significant barriers these structures can pose to many aquatic and terrestrial species that need to move up and downstream to access habitats they may need for breeding, feeding, or other activities. Any new culvert, in a perennial stream, is required to meet clear standards that will greatly reduce the impacts that currently exist at staggering levels across the Commonwealth. One of the most important features in these standards is ensuring the downstream end of the culvert is not hanging or perched, which can be accomplished by partially burying the culvert below the stream bed itself and having a slope that is not too severe preventing flows that are too swift.

The lack of active management on beaver populations, as a valued renewable resource through regulated trapping, continues to result in the unfortunate situation of them being viewed as a nuisance animal in many cases. This situation is compounded by their high reproductive capacity and lack of existing natural predators. Issues with beavers need to be brought forward to the Board of Health for beaver removal. Any work to the beaver dam or its impoundment must be reviewed by the commission for its impacts. These requests are quickly addressed and there is no fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Sprankle

GILL COUNCIL ON AGING

Gill and Montague Councils on Aging operate the Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street, in Turners Falls. The center is open between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for meals and activities.

The mission of the Council on Aging is to provide referral, outreach, nutrition, and health services in cooperation with other town departments and area agencies, and to set policy for the operation of the Senior Center, to enhance the quality of life for seniors in the community by providing health, education, recreation programs and activities. Our building is no longer adequate to house all the programs offered. We sincerely thank St. Anne's Parish for allowing us the use of Father Casey Hall for activities such as Tai Chi, Writing Workshop, Flu Clinic, Health Fair and Ice Cream Social

This year we increased our newsletter mailing from 800 households to 1550 households in the two communities. This includes all people over the age of 60. Donations and a grant from the Executive Office of Elders Affairs fund the newsletter. Council on Aging events and activities are also posted in the Recorder, Goodlife, and Montague Reporter.

Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) is available for Gill seniors.

Health and exercise programs are provided at little or no cost to seniors. Most programs are funded by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and donations. Foot Screenings are provided free through the EOEA grant. Elders pay a moderate fee for toenail clipping. Two hundred fifty seven people took advantage of this service. The Montague town nurse was available for blood pressure, sugar, and cholesterol screening, the fourth Wednesday of every month, at the Center, Attendance averaged 18 – 20 seniors. A blood pressure machine is available at the center and many seniors monitor their own pressure. The annual flu clinic was held at Father Casey Hall. This clinic is held under the supervision of the Town Nurse and implemented

by student nurses from Greenfield Community College. Greenfield Community College Nursing Students also assisted in coordinating a Health Fair at Father Casey Hall. Dr. Wadman provided vision and glaucoma screening to seniors free of charge. Other screenings included blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, skin and dental. Information on insurance, and health issues were available free to any senior. Senior Aerobics classes are held three times a week at the center. P.A.C.E. (People With Arthritis Can Exercise) twice a week. These programs are free of charge. However participants may make a donation to the Senior Center to support this and future programs. Tai Chi, a gentle exercise that helps balance and muscle strength is very popular once a week. The combination of these three types of exercise result six periods of exercise classes equaling 2,267 sessions.

Brown Bag food distribution program is available to seniors qualifying under Western Mass Food Bank eligibility guidelines. Over 1500 pounds of food was distributed to over a hundred elders from Montague and Gill each month for a small donation. Seniors attended free educational programs offered by speakers from, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Harborside Healthcare Community Presentations, Franklin County Home Care Nutrition Programs, Western Mass Bar Association, SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders), Greenfield Community College Nursing Program, Clinical Support Options.

A musical therapy program "Sing-a-long with Sylvia" was funded by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council. Other recreation programs included monthly bus trips from March through December. Six sessions of Painting Classes were offered in the fall and spring and Memoir Writing classes were held once a month. Other programs included coffee breaks, holiday parties, pot-luck lunches, weekly card and Bingo games.

Congregate meals are available for a small donation five days a week at the Senior Center through the Franklin County Home Care meals program. Often times people come early to socialize with friends and play cards. Meals on Wheels distributed 22,749 dinners from this center.

Over a hundred seniors attended a Hawaiian Luau at Turners

Falls Rod & Gun Club in July. The McDonald Family Singers performed at the annual Ice Cream Social in August.

The Council on Aging recognized its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Lunch in the spring. Volunteers from the two towns worked over five hundred hours. All Council on Aging programs and activities are implemented and funded through in-kind services, donations and grants and many volunteers.

Gill and Montague seniors are fortunate to have an active TRIAD program. TRIAD is a local community policing initiative between seniors and the District Attorneys office. Programs are informative, entertaining, and provide an opportunity for socialization. Montague and Gill Police departments and the District Attorney's Office sponsored 4 TRIAD events with meals, at a minimum charge, serving approximately 200 people at each meal and provide interesting and informative programs helpful to the older population. For the fourth year TRIAD has also sponsored a "Seniors with Kids" fishing derby at Barton Cove. House numbers, "File of Life" and emergency information is available through TRIAD. We thank the Montague and Gill police, District Attorneys office and Sheriff's department for the services they provide the seniors in this community.

AARP provided individual tax preparation and consultation free to 36 seniors.

Many seniors or family members have asked and received information and referral on topics such as housing, health, heating, insurance and other needs of daily living.

We thank all the community agencies and individuals whose efforts have benefited the seniors in this town.

Juanita "Bunny" Caldwell, Director

Gill Council on Aging Board

Beverly Demars, Chairman

Harriet Tidd, Joseph Naida, Joseph Girard & Oleatha Prevett

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Each year the Gill Cultural Council receives an allocation of funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support cultural programs in towns. This year we were awarded \$2,500.00 for fiscal year 2006.

In the fall of 2005, a total of 24 applicants were received for review. The committee chose seven to fund. Members made their choices based on support to the school, library and also entertainment for community functions.

The Gill Cultural Council welcomes input and comments regarding cultural events in town. You are invited to submit applications or visit any of our review meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica A. LaChance, Chairman

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

With the annual appropriation, the Technology Committee's expertise afforded the creation of a five-year replacement schedule for computer equipment town wide. In addition, the members provide support for the existing network at the Safety Complex and the newly created network at Town Hall. Lease of a new copier provided the ability to network one machine for fax, scan and print ability. Our plan is to eliminate replacement of multiple printers from the budget while reducing costs of maintenance and supplies, which are included in the lease price.

The Town website continues to advance in content and expertise, www.gillmass.org. This year a calendar allowing for broader publication of public meeting notice and expansion of a library of town documents was made available to residents through the world wide web.

Many thanks to Sergeant Redmond, graphic designers Don Kruger and Lynn Nichols of Startstruck Design and NMH IT Director Steve Loomer for the time and talent they provide the Gill staff. A special thanks to Northfield Mount Hermon for working together with the Town on this project; a service the town would otherwise not afford.

Debra A. Roussel, Administrative Assistant

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Memorial Day Services were held May 29th, at 10 a.m., in the Gill Congregational Church, led by Gary Bourbeau. WWII veteran Paul Seamans gave the message.

The service was then continued at the Veteran's Monuments where Selectmen Philip Maddern gave the welcoming address. Troop 6 Boy Scouts participated in the Rose Ceremony. The Oak Ridge Marine Detachment League attends the ceremony each year and read a commencement prayer. Joyana and Steven Damon played Taps. We thank the Fire Department who serve as our Honor Guard, the Police Department, and all who attend our service each year.

The Memorial Committee and the Marines placed new flags and a geranium at each veteran's gravesite before Memorial Day. The Memorial Committee replace the flags for Veterans Day.

A Purple Heart Ceremony was held in Bernardston to honor 26 local veterans. The veterans were presented official citations from Congressman John W. Olver, State Senator Stan Rosenberg and State Representative Chris Donelan. Veterans honored from Gill were Robert E. Guyette, Robert P. Lahey, and Donald A. Roy who were wounded during the Vietnam War and George V. Parody Jr. and Charles D. Shebell who were wounded during World War II.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bourbeau

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

In 2005, the Commission welcomed new member Lynda Hodsdon Mayo. Mary Anne Bauer resigned this year, and we thank her for her service on the Commission.

Members focused their attention this year on the displays in the Gill Museum. Two fireproof files were acquired to use for Gill town and family documents. The display cases were rearranged to improve visibility and accessibility for visitors. The new arrangement was completed in time for the museum's annual opening during the Fall Craft Fair. Improved traffic flow and more room for children made the new arrangement more hospitable to the museum's visitors during the fall weekend. The Commission is in the process of developing these for the museum displays. This year the displays featured World War II memorabilia during the fall weekend. The display was expanded for the museum's first Veterans' Day opening this year. The Commission appreciates the help of everyone who lent or donated items for this year's theme.

Acquisitions and donations to the Gill museum collections included additional Country Print pieces from the Robert Darr Wert studio; various documents, photos and newspaper articles about Gill residents; pictures of the Northfield Chateau and Northfield Hotel and the newest edition of Richard Little's text "Dinosaurs, Dunes and Drifting." Thanks go to all who donated these and other items this year, and also to Allan Adie for his continued support and help in organizing our collections. We continue to be interested in items pertaining to Gill history, such as stories, photos and artifacts connected with Gill schools or local functions. The Commission continues to plan for the preservation and protection of museum collections and for new opportunities to open the museum to visitors on a regular basis. As always, the members are available to help individual residents with research about their families or other aspects of town history. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cristin Carpenter, Chair

Personnel Committee

Employee Representative David Hastings was voted Chairperson on the committee for the second year, other members were Leland Stevens of the Selectboard, Raymond Garbiel of the Finance Committee replaced member Sandra Brown, Kristy Tognarelli from the community and Administrative Assistant Debra Roussel serves as a non-voting member.

It was recommended to the Board of Selectman to adjust the mileage reimbursement rate to better reflect the IRS standard, the rate was increased from .27 to .40. The Town will also make this a standard procedure to adjust the rate per the IRS standard each January 1st.

All Town (non-elected) positions were re-evaluated regarding their Grade Level and Step Level, per the Classification Sheet. Suggested changes were forwarded to the Board of Selectman for their approval.

Long Term and Short Term Disability options are currently being discussed for future consideration.

As always the language within the policies will continue to be defined for clarification purposes without changing the benefits.

I wish to thank all the committee members for their time and effort in serving this board and the community.

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Hastings, Chair

2005 Gill Recreation Committee Annual Report

The Recreational Committee has had another very busy year, with community activity all year long. We continued to try to improve all our functions (with input from our residents) to best serve the community of Gill. With that in mind I will highlight all our activities as they occurred from the start of the year to the end.

Once again, Steve Striebel has assisted the recreation committee to another great basketball season (2004-2005). This year we had four teams in three different divisions: Gill 1 (boys 5/6 grade) coached by Roger Parenteau and Nathan Duda; Gill 2 (boys 5/6 grade) coached by Jim Poulsen and Peter Turban; Girls (5/6 grade) coached by Ed Dolhenty, Maurice Dumas and Alan Vaughn; Coed (2nd, 3rd and 4th grade) coached by Kristy Tognarelli, Lynn Hubert and Fred Bezio. A big thanks to all the coaches who devoted a lot of time and effort to bring a great season to all the children who participated. I would also like to thank all the volunteer referees, score/time keepers, and the parents, family members and friends who showed up each week to cheer on our teams. The enthusiasm the kids show on the basketball court with the crowd cheering them on makes the entire basketball season a must see event for all involved.

Congratulations to the combined efforts of the Gill 1 and Gill 2 (boys 5/6 grade) for their First Place finish in the Vernon Boys Invitational Basketball tournament on February 17th-20th, 2005. These boys played every game as a team with all their heart to go undefeated all weekend.

Coach Jim Poulsen with assistance from Roger Parenteau and Peter Turban were able to continually swap players in and out throughout the weekend tournament showing all that Gill has a team full of very talented basketball players. Every game they played was very close right to the end, including John Gundelfinger's game winning buzzer shot to clinch the final win. I would like to name off the entire team as they all had moments throughout the weekend that helped lead them to victory: Andy Turban, Benny Lawton, Chad Galipault, Chris Gordon, Colton Hallett, Jack Hubert, Jeff Gibson, John Gundelfinger, Johnny Marguet, Luke Poulsen, Matt Gibson, Malik Odeh, Matt Parenteau and Zachary Wallenius-Duda. Their team trophy and team picture will be placed on the Gill School display rack for all to view.

On Sunday, March 6th, we had our end of the season gathering for all our teams at the NMH gym. We had a potluck meal with awards and certificates for all players. The day ended with three full basketball courts of parents and kids playing against each other; fun was had by all. The kids taught the parents two things that day, strength by numbers and that kids have a lot more stamina than the adults. Thank you NMH for the use of the facility — we would never be able to accommodate our four teams for all our practices and end of the year gathering without you.

On February 27th, we held our Fourth Annual Wacky Sliding Party at the Oak Ridge Golf Course. Our always helping Gill Fire Dept. came with their rescue vehicle so the kids could warm up when needed and kept the roadside safe. The Wallenius-Duda, Crosby, Gordon and Tognarelli families all received certificates for their Wacky sleds they made. The recreation committee served hot dogs, hot cocoa and cookies to all that came. Thank you John Duda for running the grill and Rick and Janice, owners of the Oak Ridge Golf Course, for always accommodating our needs. We had our biggest turn out yet, with lots of kids and adults sliding throughout the day reminding all who came that you are never too young or old to take part in a sliding party.

Congratulations to Gill youth baseball (5th and 6th grade boys) for their championship season. The team trophy and team picture is on display at the Town Hall for the summer, and at the school in September. Throughout the season these boys played as a very supporting team, always keeping their spirits up with all the team players making big plays on the field and at the plate all season long. Along with this championship team we also had a very dedicated coaching staff with Roger Parenteau (head coach), Nathan Duda, Peter Turban (assistance coach), and an awesome group of parents and family members on the sidelines at every game.

Congratulations to Gill Pee-Wee (2nd, 3rd and 4th grade boys) for making it to the championship game where they lost by 1 run in extra innings. For a team that consisted of a lot of 1st season pee-wee players another well rounded team was formed. Thank you Mace Hemphill (head coach) and Rose Levasseur (assistance coach).

Gill Pride (Girls softball) had a great season as well. This was another team that consisted of a lot of younger players that improved all through the season. Thank you to John Duda (head coach), Alan Vaughn, Carin Duda, and the many other parents helping out this 17-player roster.

Gill Farm (K, 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls) had a wonderful season as well with Charlie Malcolm and Greg Leeds coaching.

All players received medallions and certificates for their participation. On June 30th the Youth and Softball teams got together at the Gill school and had a potluck gathering with awards in the end. We also had a softball game parents and coaches against the kids. A lot of fun was had by all.

A big thanks to Jeff and Marie Suprenant for all their time spent running the concession stand at our home games. Between their sales and the Gill Fire Department's generous donations of cans together they raised \$348 to help with Rec special functions.

I would also like to thank Tom Bergeron (Gill's own Iron man of umpiring) for umpiring all of Gill's home games, along with Brandon Rawson for umpiring the bases.

Gill Rec's (6 week) Summer Program was another great success for the kids who participated. We lost Chris Taggart 1/2 way through the season (due to commitments at another school) but Phil Snow took over and we added one more counselor (Yusef Lateef) to fill the gap, along with junior counselor Joey Rinaldi and Eric Dumas. All helped give the kids a great summer. Each day consisted of sports, board games, arts, and crafts. Just about every week they had field trips (movies, Laurel Lake, Interstate 91, and French King Bowling Alley). Thank you for all the parents who helped out driving to make the field trips happen.

On Saturday August 13th from 11 AM to 3PM we held our annual Summer Fun Day at the Gill School. We had a Bounce House, cotton candy, snow cones, hot dogs and drinks, along with our homemade 100 ft. water slide with help from our always helping Gill Fire Dept. We had a great turnout and fun was had by all ages. Officer Adam Sokoloski brought up stuffed animals and key chains for all the kids. Special thanks to Noah Pack and Kyle Lapointe (Gill Fire Dept), Alan and Candy Vaughn, Jody Wallenius-Duda, Rose Levasseur, and John Duda for helping make this event happen. The kids of Gill really look forward to this event every year.

On Sunday August 7th, the Rec teamed up with Rick and Janice, owners of Oak Ridge Golf Course, to host our second annual Gill Appreciation Day at Oak Ridge. The Rec ran the grill outside providing free Hot dogs and hamburgers to all who participate. Rick and Janice set a very low \$5 per person for greens fee and the Rec covered the cart cost with a discount from Oak Ridge. This was a great family day for all ages. Many families made their own foursome and played in a scramble format. The food started at noon and tee times began at 1 PM. The turn out was great with some new faces and many regulars that already know Oak Ridge has a great family friendly atmosphere with a lush course and beautiful views. Thank you to Rick and Janice, Candy Vaughn, and Rose Lavasseur for running the grill, and Joe (The Bread Man) Rinaldi Sr., for all the hot dogs and hamburger buns and all the families that participated. This is an event we plan to co-host with Oak Ridge every year, so practice as a family to prepare for next year.

On August 28th, we had 100 Gill residents and family go on our annual Red sox trip to Fenway Park to see the Red sox vs. Detroit Tigers. We went down and back on two of Travel Kuz's very nice coaches. Rick James (former Gill Rec. chairman) represented the town of Gill on the field right before the start of the game. When the town of Gill was announced the whole stadium heard our presence. The Red sox won with an action packed last 3 innings that left most people standing and cheering the whole time. This was a great family and town event that keeps growing and we are looking into sending 150 residents next year. More info will follow this winter.

As always, Steve Striebel has guided the Gill Rec. Soccer program to another very successful season. This year we had 52 kids participate (a new fall soccer enrollment record). With this large number of players came many volunteers

to coach and referee all the practices and games. At the senior level (5th and 6th Coed) I, Nathan Duda was head coach with assistance from Steve Striebel and Mark Smith. This group of kids played as an unstoppable team showing up at the Nov. 4th Soccer Jamboree at Pratt Field in Bernardston as the team to beat. They finished the day undefeated (6 wins) with all the players working together and having fun. At the junior level (3rd and 4th grades Coed) Gred Leeds (head coach) taught this group the more advanced fundamentals of soccer and the rewards and joy of playing as a team. At the youngest level (K to 2nd grades Coed) (Gilla Monsters) Everett Logan and Charlie Malcolm (with assistance from many other parents) taught this group the basic fundamentals of soccer as well as how to play as a team and good sportsmanship. I would also like to thank all the Referees for our home games, Steve Striebel, Alan Vaughn, NMH students, and the parents for making a great soccer season for all 3 Gill Teams. The Gill Rec purchased certificates and medallions that the coaches awarded to their players. Steve Striebel also bought the entire senior team lunch at the new Gill Store out of the joy watching and working with this incredible group that works so well as a team. Also thank you to Steve Striebel and Greg Leeds for all the set-ups of flags and lines on fields before each home game. I would like to thank **NMH** and Tom Pratt Athletic Director for the use of the lower fields to host all of our home games. To be able to host multiple home games at the same time makes it that much more enjoyable for all that are there. NMH has always been great in assisting many of the Gill Rec. functions helping make Gill the great community it is.

All the Rec functions are also made possible by support from our Selectboard (Phillip Maddern, Leland Stevens and Ann Banash) lots of assistance from Deb Roussel (Administrative Assistant), town accountants and Treasurer Ronnie LaChance, all play a part to make all our recreation activities a reality. Thanks for all your support.

I would also like to thank all the Rec. members Rose Levassuer, John Duda Jr. and Candy Vaughn for assisting in all our functions. Sometimes we are all overwhelmed but in the end we all feel the great community we are in is worth all the effort.

Respectfully Submitted

Nathan Duda Chairman
Rose Levassur Treasure
John Duda Jr.
Candy Vaughn

Gill Planning Board Annual Report 2005-2006

Those of us who live in Gill know what a treasure it is – great location, open spaces, people who know each other and enjoy being part of a community, beautiful natural resources. The list could go on at length, but we would not all agree about every entry on the list.

Because people come to the planning board proposing change, we often become the focal point for (sometimes heated) discussions about the character of our town, appropriate land uses, business impact on our tax base, and what our vision for the town is as we move further into the 21st century. Our zoning bylaws directly affect all of these issues, encouraging or discouraging certain types of development and uses.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has begun leading us through a comprehensive look at our current bylaws and we hope to have proposed revisions completed by June 2006. Everyone is welcome to participate in this process.

This year, the select board joined with the planning board and the zoning board of appeals to look at a possible redistribution of permit granting authority. The intent was to relieve the planning board of the continual time commitment related to special permitting so they would be able to devote more effort to planning, which most of us would agree is critical to ensuring that Gill remains a town in which we all want to live. In January, at a special town meeting, the town did vote to make this change.

New members will be needed on both the planning board, which will now be able to dedicate the majority of their time to planning, and on the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). The ZBA, which had been fairly inactive, will now become quite active and will need new members. If you think you might be interested in either board, please don't hesitate to come forward, ask questions, and see if this might be a good fit for you. This is your chance to make a difference in your town!

On a final note, we are disappointed the Town has not provided for paid clerical support for the permit granting entity. Two people have volunteered to help with clerical duties, and we are very grateful! Realistically, however, time pressures have made it difficult to organize what needs to be done and pass that on to someone else to do. We need this support to be part of a paid employee's responsibilities so things can be processed in a consistent, timely manner as they come in to the Town Hall.

Suzanne M. Smiley, Chair

Gill Planning Board

Slate Memorial Library

This year's summer reading program, "The Amazing Reading Race," involved children and their families in an exploration of Gill's history and geography. Organized by Liz Gardner, the program's highlights included a hands-on fossil workshop, a self-guided quest to find clues hidden around Gill, and a presentation of Native American crafts in a wigwam erected on the library lawn. Adults and children enjoyed two fascinating evening programs as well: "Beneath the river: an underwater exploration of the Connecticut River" led by diver/naturalist Sean Werle, and "Tracks of the dino-birds: Edward Hitchcock and the discovery of our local dinosaurs" by best-selling author Nancy Pick. High school senior Suriah Odeh contributed a game-board which led participants around a map of Gill, starting with dinosaurs and ending in the modern era. Special thanks to Liz, as always, for her unflagging energy and organizational skills, and to all our participating families. The Gill community continues to demonstrate exemplary commitment to its growing readers!

Thanks also to Suriah Odeh for leading a two week intensive art camp for older grader-schoolers at the library. Through a grant from Deerfield Academy, Suriah provided campers with top-notch drawing supplies; she led the sessions with competence and patience, setting a high standard for work which the children both met and exceeded.

Liz Gardner also continued her pre-school Story Adventures series on Friday mornings at the library. This program is funded in large part by the Community Partnership for Children of Gill-Montague. In addition to enjoying the outstanding theme-based programs of story, music, movement and art, parents and pre-schoolers alike valued the opportunity to meet, play and socialize on a regular basis. Liz's work with pre-schoolers has been

singularly effective in encouraging Gill youngsters to love books, and even more, to regard the library as an exciting resource. We thank her!

Boyle Road resident Kim Sprankle has begun a knitting workshop at the library on the third Thursday of every month, starting at 7 pm. Sessions have been lively and well-attended -- all levels of expertise are welcome. As we try to build more adult-focused activity at the library, we welcome suggestions from anyone with ideas.

Our collection continues to grow, and we're especially enjoying two large new shelving units in the library's main room, as well as a lovely reading area with two armchairs, a lamp and a rug. Many thanks to trustees Ellen Johnson, Sue Kramer and Anne Perry for their efforts, as well as to all those who have volunteered both their time and their expertise in helping us maintain and upgrade the building.

Library open hours are Mondays 2-6 p.m., Thursdays 2-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For information on programs or resources, please call Lissa at 863-4386.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissa Greenough
Library Director

**ANNUAL REPORT
FRED WELLS TRUSTEES**

Funds available for the fiscal year 2005/06 are \$209,330 (which includes unused scholarship money from 2003/2004 that was reallocated to the scholarship fund).

EDUCATION: The Trustees received 340 applications for education scholarships and approved 322 students to receive \$185,539. This amount includes the two scholarships in honor of Ralph & Hilda Haskins. The Trustees spent many hours on the selection process to ensure that as many students as possible could receive scholarship aid.

HEALTH:

Five (5) health programs were approved totaling \$22,000.00:

Community Health Center of Franklin County	\$7,000.00
Green River House	\$2,000.00
NELCWIT	\$5,000.00
Pastoral Counseling	\$2,000.00
TRIPP Memorial, Inc.	\$2,000.00

AGRICULTURE: An amount of \$10,466.00 was allowed by the Trustees for payment:

Franklin County Agricultural Fair	\$ 6,713.00
Heath Agricultural Fair	\$ 3,154.00
Shelburne Grange Fair	\$ 599.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank J. Cutting,
Gill Representative to the Trust

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

425 Main Street, Suite 40, Greenfield, MA 01301-3313
Telephone 413-774-3167 • Fax 413-774-3169 • www.frcog.org
Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



2005 Annual Report

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is pleased to submit this annual report for calendar year 2005. As the regional planning agency and governmental membership organization serving the twenty-six towns of Franklin County, we provide a broad array of planning, advocacy, and community services, as well as fee-for-service programs serving municipal needs. The following is a brief summary of FRCOG services, programs, projects, and activities for 2005.

FRCOG Economic Development Planning initiatives facilitate business growth and development to improve our regional economy and provide jobs, goods, and services. We work with federal, state and local economic development agencies to assess needs and issues, identify and implement projects, and maintain eligibility for funding. Work in 2005 included: the Brownfield Site Assessment and Revolving Loan programs; the Greater Franklin County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Economic Development District; industrial park planning; and Pioneer Valley Connect.

A **Geographic Information System** is a computer system for mapping geographic data. GIS is incorporated into many aspects of our work and is available to towns on a fee-for-service basis. Our 2005 activities included: updating maps for the Franklin Region Long Range Transportation Plan; completing parcel mapping for all the towns; homeland security and emergency planning; support for Smart Growth Technical Assistance grants; analyzing demographic information; and updating zoning maps.

We provide assistance on a wide range of **Land Use Planning and Zoning** activities including preparation of Master Plans and Open Space and Recreation Plans and technical assistance to update Zoning Bylaws or Subdivision Regulations. In 2005 our activities included: a Regional Policy Plan; a Strategic Plan for Renewable Energy; sub-regional Open Space Plans for the Deerfield and Millers River Watersheds; a comprehensive Regional Water Supply Study for Franklin County; a Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and Local Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for twenty-three communities.

FRCOG **Natural Resources Planning** projects typically focus on assessing and protecting a particular resource or on innovative technologies/techniques that mitigate resource impacts. Projects in 2005 included: the Connecticut River Watershed Restoration – Phase III; the Deerfield River Watershed Non-point Pollution Assessment; the Four Mile Brook Watershed Assessment; and developing a draft of an Aquifer Protection Overlay District Zoning Bylaw for the Town of Whately.

The FRCOG provides member towns with a variety of **Transportation Planning** services. We maintain the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a listing of all Franklin County projects eligible for federal aid, and we assist towns with TIP project development and tracking. We also prepare a Long Range Regional Transportation Plan every three years, and facilitate public involvement in the transportation planning process in Franklin County. In 2005 our projects included: the Franklin County Bikeway; Scenic Byways for the Connecticut River, Mohawk Trail, and Route 112; hazardous intersections identification; planning for a Regional Transportation Center; Routes 2 and 116 Safety Improvements; the Route 2 West Safety Study; the Traffic Counting Program; and the Transportation Demand Management Program.

The FRCOG provides **Engineering Services** for rural roadway design, drainage design, slope stabilization, right-of-way acquisition, highway layout research, and maintenance engineering. In 2005 our projects include: the State Street Footprint Reconstruction Project in Buckland; the Green River Road at Workman Brook Slope Stabilization and Culvert Repair Project in Colrain; the Lower Road Culvert Repair Project in Deerfield; the Proposed Changes to the Intersection of Cushman Road and Shutesbury Road in Leverett; and the Public Library Parking and Accessible Access Project in Shutesbury.

Emergency Preparedness Planning initiatives include staffing the Franklin County Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition, and the Medical Reserve Corps and serving as fiduciary agent to the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council. We also work with the Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid, local governments, and the other two regional planning agencies in Western Massachusetts to provide integrated planning and technical assistance to improve our region's ability to prepare, respond and recover from natural and man-made disasters. Our 2005 projects included: First Responder/Municipal Training; the Regional Hazardous

Materials Emergency Plan; board of health communication and technology grants, high-speed internet access for boards of health, development of a regional radio communications system; and initiation of a Debris Management Plan.

The FRCOG **Community Coalition for Teens** provides services to promote the health and well-being of teens in the Franklin County and North Quabbin region. CCT collaborates with school and community partners to: establish and support effective youth development and health-promotion programs; provide training and technical assistance for evidence-based practices; and involve and empower youth. CCT projects in 2005 included: a Region-Wide Teen Health Survey; the 14th annual Youth Conference; Communities That Care, UNITY, Student-led Social Norms Marketing, Parent Education, Safe Homes Parent Network, SMART Recovery, and the Teen Outreach Program.

The **Cooperative Inspection Program** is a community service mandated by the state and financed by member towns and inspection fees. This program was formed in 1975 and became so successful that a Plumbing and Electrical inspection services were added in 1986. Services in 2005 included: Building Inspection, Zoning Enforcement, Wiring Inspection, and Plumbing Inspection in 17 County towns.

The **Cooperative Purchasing Program** provides bidding, contracting, and other services to towns and non-profit agencies. The Program saves money by volume discount buying, and we assure that legally required bidding processes are followed. Participation in any established bidding and contracting program is fee based. Consultation on any bidding or proposal project is available on an hourly basis. Programs in 2005 included: Highway Products and Services, Fuel Products, Dog Licenses and Dog Tags.

The **Regional Health Inspection Program** is designed to respond to the code enforcement and education needs of local Boards of Health. In 2005 the Program provided regional professional health agent support to 16 towns and a monthly Board of Health Capacity-Building Workshop Series.

The **Town Accountant Program** is a fee-for-service program initiated in 2005 to respond to the needs of several Franklin County towns for professional accounting services. We currently serve four towns, and more communities are expected to join in the future. A full range of municipal accounting services is offered to participating communities.

Other **Regional Services** provided in 2005 included: advocating on

behalf of our member communities at all levels to ensure that funding programs and policies respond to the rural nature, economic strengths, and human and natural resources of our region; representing Franklin County's interests on many boards and committees and at conferences; helping to facilitate Senator Rosenberg's annual Municipal Conference; producing a Regional Directory; completing a Wage and Salary Survey; and facilitating many workshops and exercises.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is committed to providing the best possible service to its member towns and to the region. For additional details about FRCOG programs, projects, and services please contact us for our full 2005 Annual Report at 413-744-3167 ext. 100. Also, a new FRCOG website is under development and will be available in the spring of 2006. Check it out then at www.frcog.org.

**REPORT OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to the twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses. The District continues to oversee the operation of three permanent collection sites for common household hazardous wastes such as oil-based paint and paint-related products, used motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, fluorescent lights, ballasts, and rechargeable batteries. These sites are open year-round to all District residents. There is a small disposal fee. The sites are located in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway. Contact the District office for operating hours for each site.

2005 was a rewarding year for the District. The National Recycling Coalition awarded the District its 2005 Outstanding Government Program award. The District was selected over other programs from throughout the United States. This national recognition reflects the innovative and sustainable waste management programs that the District provides to its member towns. We are all grateful for this award and for the continued support of member towns.

In 2005, District towns recycled approximately 2,700 tons of paper and 1,200 tons of mixed containers. By diverting a total of 3,900 tons of recyclables from landfills and incineration, District towns collectively saved over \$250,000 in disposal costs. Overall, recycling still makes good economic sense for District towns. The only disappointing aspect is that the recycling tonnage is almost identical to 2004, which means a stagnant recycling rate for the county. The District will encourage increased recycling through public education in 2006.

The District held its annual household hazardous waste collection in September. On-line registration is increasingly popular. Just over 350 residents participated at the three regional sites. Almost 1,000 gallons of motor oil was collected! The next hazardous waste collection will be held on September 9, 2006. The annual "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection was held in October. There were 400 participants at three regional sites. We collected 55 tons of appliances, scrap metal, bulky items, electronics, tires, and propane tanks!

Some new programs for 2006 include collecting and disposing of unused prescription medication, a program for junk car removal, and public education campaigns on hazardous products and plastics recycling. District residents can now use the Greenfield Transfer Station for a small day use fee plus disposal fees for a variety of waste materials.

If you have questions about the District and its programs, call us at 772-2438; visit our website at franklincountywastedistrict.org; or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - Executive Director
Diana Schindler, Colrain - Vice-Chair
Chris Boutwell, Montague - Chair
Becky Jurek, Bernardston - Treasurer

**2005 ANNUAL REPORT
FCCIP BUILDING DEPT.**

Fiscal Year 2005 was the busiest year on record for the Building Inspection Program. The total number of building permits issued in all participating towns was 1,103-- up 61 from 2004. Previously, 2004 was the record year with 1,042, and before that 2002 with 974 permits. Total dwelling unit permits was 91, down from the 116 units constructed in 2004. Total Certificates of Occupancy issued were 376, also a record.

Total Permit value was \$42,717,309
Total Fees collected was \$223,452

The following towns have permit caps for dwellings: Leverett allows 10, Shutesbury 6, Heath 6, Whately 10, and Erving 12. Keep in mind that when a cap is placed on dwelling unit permits, it also eliminates income from the fees they would have generated.

Efforts to standardize signature requirements for town boards, I.e. Conservation Commissions and Boards of Health had marginal results. This issue continues to thwart any progress towards streamlining the permitting process.

Enforcing the Zoning Bylaws in each town continues to constitute a large portion of the Inspection Program's workload. This service is provided without charge to each town.

Keep an eye out for work being done without permits Not only is it illegal, but it cheats your town of valuable income.

Respectfully

James D. Hawkins, Building Commissioner

**Franklin County Cooperative Inspection
Fiscal Year Report for Building Permits
07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005**

TOWN	PERMITS	VALUE	DWELL UNITS*	PERMIT FEES	CERT OF OCC	CERT OF INSP	C. I. FEES	OTHER FEES	TOTAL
Ashfield	88	2,436,300	7	13,200.00	35	5	120.	80.00	13,400.00
Bernardston	97	4,058,982	11	20,870.00	32	12	305.	130.00	21,305.00
Buckland	100	3,490,792	11	18,662.00	26	5	65.	25.00	18,752.00
Charlemont	67	1,404,673	3	7,720.00	33	16	298.	147.00	8,165.00
Conway	103	4,709,023	12	23,155.00	25	4	125.	0.00	23,280.00
Erving	81	3,578,477	14	18,585.00	32	7	193.	80.00	18,858.00
Gill	82	5,775,375	2	30,015.00	27	31	1,240.	375.00	31,630.00
Hawley	21	698,140	0	3,655.00	8	1	40.	0.00	3,695.00
Heath	54	1,609,705	2	7,270.00	16	3	0.	0.00	7,270.00
Leverett	82	4,279,609	8	21,680.00	33	8	160.	30.00	21,870.00
Leyden	46	2,314,159	5	10,590.00	15	4	35.	0.00	10,625.00
Shelburne	110	1,662,295	1	9,235.00	46	38	1,304.	234.00	10,773.00
Shutesbury	76	2,758,371	9	13,505.00	23	5	182.	30.00	13,717.00
Whately	96	3,941,408	5	19,745.00	25	10	337.	30.00	20,112.00
TOTALS	1103	42,717,309	90	217,887.00	376	149	4,404.	1,161.00	223,452.00

*2-Family and Multi-dwellings are issued only one permit per building.

**These figures reflect only those inspections which receive Certificates, but "Other Fees" reflect re-inspections and duplication of permits and C.O.'s

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY
ELECTRICAL PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2005**

Dear Member Town:

The enclosed report is for Fiscal Year 2004 and reflects Wiring permits and fee activity for all member towns. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office. A review of the number of permits and fees collected each fiscal year for the last 5 years shows the following:

FY	2001	688	46,264.00
	2002	607	43,418.00
	2003	597	44,961.00
	2004	629	51,460.00
	2005	570	54,589.00

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Electrical Inspector. My name is James Slowinski and I have lived all my life in Colrain, MA. I have worked as Ed Marchefka's alternate for the past 6 years, until his untimely passing in 2005. I look forward to serving you and welcome any questions you might have. You can contact me during office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. at 772-2026 x 126, or via email at electric@frcog.org.

Just a reminder to all town residents that all electrical work requires an inspection. You will find permits, fee schedules and helpful information on our web site at www.fccip.org.

Sincerely,

James Slowinski
Electrical Inspector

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Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program
Wiring Inspector
07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005
FISCAL YEAR REPORT

PERMIT FEE RECEIPTS FROM TOWNS:

Towns	Re-inspection Fees	Permits	Amount
Ashfield	0.00	44	3,695.00
Bernardston	0.00	61	5,425.00
Buckland	30.00	55	5,190.00
Charlemont	0.00	45	4,682.00
Conway	0.00	57	5,465.00
Erving	0.00	50	4,925.00
Gill	0.00	43	6,395.00
Hawley	0.00	8	830.00
Heath	0.00	32	2,060.00
Leverett	40.00	60	4,975.00
Leyden	0.00	0	0.00
Monroe	0.00	0	0.00
Northfield	0.00	0	0.00
Rowe	0.00	0	0.00
Shelburne	0.00	65	5,057.00
Shutesbury	0.00	0	0.00
Wendell	0.00	0	0.00
Whately	25.00	50	5,795.00
TOTAL:	95.00	570	54,494.00

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED 54,589.00

James Slowinski,
Wiring Inspector

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY
PLUMBING/GAS PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

Dear Member Town:

The enclosed report is for Fiscal Year 2005 and reflects Plumbing/Gas permits and fee activity for all member towns. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office. A review of the number of permits and fees collected each fiscal year for the last 5 years shows the following:

FY	2001	599	34,722.00
	2002	631	36,357.00
	2003	589	43,580.00
	2004	574	44,436.00
	2005	627	54,968.00

I would like to take this opportunity to remind town residents that permits are required for replacing water heaters. You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at: www.fccip.org.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2004 the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program became a program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. We remain in the same location, and you can reach us at 772-2026, ext. 125. My new e-mail address is: plumbing@frcog.org. We welcome the Town of Gill into our program and sadly say goodbye to the Town of Monroe. Once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to all town officials for your cooperation and assistance during the past year.

Plumb/Gas Inspector

Sincerely,
Andrew French

(The Town of Gill did not participate in this program until July 1, 2004.)

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program
 Plumbing/Gas Inspector
 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005
 FISCAL YEAR REPORT

PERMIT FEE RECEIPTS FROM TOWNS:

Towns	Re-inspection Fees	Permits	Amount
Ashfield	0.00	44	3,505.00
Bernardston	30.00	57	5,170.00
Buckland	0.00	46	4,840.00
Charlemont	0.00	44	3,395.00
Conway	30.00	65	5,582.00
Erving	0.00	56	5,499.00
Gill	20.00	79	9,398.00
Hawley	0.00	7	505.00
Heath	0.00	31	2,208.00
Leverett	75.00	58	3,879.00
Leyden	20.00	33	2,970.00
Monroe	0.00	0	0.00
Northfield	0.00	0	0.00
Rowe	0.00	0	0.00
Shelburne	10.00	58	4,290.00
Shutesbury	0.00	0	0.00
Wendell	0.00	0	0.00
Whately	0.00	49	3,542.00
TOTAL:	185.00	627	54,783.00

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED \$54,968.00

Andrew French
 Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Franklin County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) 2005 Report to Our Member Communities

The Franklin County LEPC received formal recognition from the State Emergency Response Commission in 2000 to enhance cooperative regional emergency planning, and address the Federal SARA Title III requirement that all communities have active Local Emergency Planning Committees, procedures to deal with hazardous materials emergencies, meet right-to-know requirements, and encourage community awareness. With the leadership and administrative support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) all 26 Franklin County towns opted in to a regional LEPC approach; the largest regional LEPC in the Commonwealth.

Early on the Committee elected an “all hazards” approach to emergency planning which not only addresses our responsibility for aiding towns in planning for haz mat emergencies but also other natural and man-made disasters (flood, blizzard, hurricane, terrorist attack, etc) that call for a similar inter-town, inter-disciplinary response.

Your LEPC membership currently consists of the following representatives of the thirteen federally-required disciplines:

Fire Service: Walter Tibbits (Franklin County Fire Chiefs)
Law Enforcement: Gary Sibia (Franklin County Police Chiefs)
Emergency Medical Services: Dave Hansen (Franklin County EMS)
Board of Health: Dave Chichester/Gina McNeeley (Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition)
Hospitals: Fred Callahan (Franklin Medical Center)
Transportation: Denise Wallenius (Franklin Regional Transit Authority)
Media: George Claxton (The Recorder)
Emergency Management: John Bartus (Town of Orange)
Public Works: Vacant
Community Groups: Dawn Josefski (Franklin County CERT Team)
Environmental: John Bourcier (MA Department of Environmental Protection)
Elected Officials: Vacant
Industry: Jim Field (University of Massachusetts)
Additional representatives include: Bill Allen (Franklin County Planning Board) and Raymond Godin (Western MA Homeland Security Council).

In addition each of the member communities has designated an Emergency Response Coordinator who is the contact between the LEPC and their town:

Ashfield: Doug Field	Monroe: David Nash
Bernardston: Peter Shedd	Montague: Bob Escott
Buckland: Milton Rock	New Salem: Thomas Reidy
Charlemont: Charles Bellows	Northfield: Gary Sibia
Colrain: Larry Dumas	Orange: Dennis Annear
Conway: Jeff McFarland	Rowe: Edwin May
Deerfield: Mark Gilmore	Shelburne: Angus “Terry” Dun
Erving: Mitchell LeClaire	Shutesbury: Walter Tibbits
Gill: Jason Edson	Sunderland: Robert Ahearn
Greenfield: Michael Winn	Warwick: Donald Matthews
Hawley: Greg Cox	Wendell: Everett Ricketts
Heath: Tim Lively	Whately: Lynn Sibley
Leverett: Jim Field	
Leyden: Gilda Galvis	

(LEPC) 2005 REPORT continued...

While this is a huge group of individuals to assemble, inform, and obtain feedback, the participation and response has been positive with an average of 30 members present at the quarterly meetings in 2005. Additionally, the LEPC has provided a wonderful conduit for interdisciplinary communication about emergency planning and collaboration.

During 2005 your LEPC took the following actions:

- 1 Provided Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Training to responders during classes in Colrain and Gill.
- 2 Coordinated five MEMA training classes for responders on the National Incident Management System and Incident Command in Charlemont, Greenfield, Deerfield (2), Whately.
- 3 Developed a Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan for submission to the Towns for acceptance and to the Commonwealth's State Emergency Response Commission for approval.
- 4 Contributed to the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Council plan development and implementation.
- 5 Aiding in the development of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) programs in the county.
- 6 Worked with the FRCOG staff in providing training on statewide Pictometry imaging software and databases.
- 7 Obtained, in cooperation with the FRCOG and FCSWMD, a disaster Debris Management grant.
- 8 Provided training about the operation of the Massachusetts Regional Hazardous Materials Response program.
- 9 Collected and recorded Tier II Hazardous Materials data from 68 handling sites in the County.
- 10 Conducted a Tabletop Emergency Response Exercise based on a simulated haz mat spill in the Town of Shelburne.
- 11 Sent representation to the Franklin County/Tri-State Fire radio committee.
- 12 Participated in the Mohawk Health Coalition exercise concerning Infectious Disease control.
- 13 Conducted four quarterly board meetings of the full LEPC.

In addition to continuing and completing many of the ongoing projects the committee will be working in 2006 to develop a predictable funding mechanism to provide for continuation of the committee. The Commonwealth has also recommended that we alter our name to include the word "regional" to reflect our role as a multi-jurisdictional organization; a model that many suggest is one that should be replicated throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you to all who contributed to this effort.

John Taylor, Chair
Mark Gilmore, Vice Chair
Ben Wood, Secretary (acting)
Patricia Auchard, Treasurer
John Bartus, Exec Comm
Jim Field, Exec Comm

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S SERVICES
Central Franklin County District

Dear Veterans' and Citizens of Gill:

This past year was a good year for Veteran related legislation, which was passed during the previous 12 months. Here is a list of some of those bills.

State Bonus for returning Iraq Veterans
Chapter 115 benefits for Peacetime Veterans
Military pay differentials
Distinguished Flying Cross plates
Naming a road at the MA Veterans' Cemetery,
 "Charles E. Grout - Winchendon Lane"
Crime to remove Veterans Flag holders from cemeteries

The Holyoke Soldiers Home is also accepting applications for health care Benefits. They can be reached by calling 413-532-9475. The Holyoke Soldiers Home is a State funded hospital and I encourage all Veterans to apply.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is still offering the Two Thousand Dollars Annuity (\$2,000.00) for 100% service connected disabled veterans, parents of a son or daughter whose death occurred as a result of injury sustained or disease contracted during active service in time of war, insurrection, or combat, and to a spouse whose husband or wife died as a result of injury sustained or disease contracted during active service in time of war, insurrection or combat.

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority is provides transportation to Franklin County and Athol Veterans for Medical Appointments at VA Facilities every Tuesday and Thursday. The VA Clinic in Greenfield number is 413-773-8435.

If you have any questions please call F.M. Kuzmeskus one week in advance at 413-863-2595.

Sincerely,
 Leo J. Parent, Jr.,
 Director

**FINANCIAL REPORTS OF
TOWN OFFICERS**



**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
2005**

Town of Gill

TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS

NAME	Bal. 7/1/04	Income	Expense	Interest	Bal. 6/30/05
WEST CEMETARY					
P. C. Funds	\$2,121.79		\$365.00	36.03	\$1,792.82
Alonzo Atherton	\$367.28			6.57	\$373.85
Day, Wood, Hosmer	\$503.33			8.96	\$512.29
George W. Harris	\$719.94		\$420.00	11.68	\$311.62
George W. Hastings	\$560.53		\$70.00	9.97	\$500.50
Lewis L. Hastings	\$529.93			9.44	\$539.37
Helen M. Lynde	\$123.07			2.19	\$125.26
Total West Cemetery	\$4,998.75	\$0.00	\$855.00	\$84.84	\$4,228.59
NORTH CEMETARY					
North Burial	\$1,170.62		\$660.00	20.88	\$531.50
P.C. Funds	\$1,931.51		\$640.00	29.66	\$1,321.17
George R. Bliss	\$1,121.52		\$120.00	19.96	\$1,021.48
Julian T. Martindale	\$614.70			10.94	\$625.64
Holland F. Roberts	\$85.95			1.53	\$87.48
Bardwell-Severance	\$383.03			6.82	\$389.85
Feb. & Lydia Stockwell	\$274.22			4.88	\$279.10
Ella J. Stoughton	\$657.99		\$120.00	10.85	\$548.84
Wright & Perry	\$942.05		\$200.00	16.83	\$758.88
Total North Cemetery	\$7,171.81				\$7,171.81
CENTER CEMETARY					
P.C. Funds	\$4,028.65			71.73	\$4,100.38
Josiah D. Canning	\$458.94			8.17	\$467.11
Frederick Hale	\$8,796.85		\$776.99	155.51	\$8,175.37
Kate L. Haywood	\$444.38			7.91	\$452.29
Lyman B. Howe	\$898.36			15.99	\$914.35
Samuel Jones	\$913.72			16.27	\$929.99
E. L. Kelly	\$1,245.63		\$300.00	19.99	\$965.62
A.F.S. Lyons	\$1,186.85			21.13	\$1,207.98
William Nichols	\$1,119.44			19.93	\$1,139.37
Halbert & Persis Phillips	\$868.30			15.46	\$883.76
Warren Purple	\$559.31			9.95	\$569.26
William H. Papp	\$1,175.92		\$150.00	20.93	\$1,046.85
Emily A. Roberts	\$857.77			15.27	\$873.04
Toomey-Scheidng	\$779.84		\$100.00	13.18	\$693.02
Hollis M. Slate	\$1,439.27			25.75	\$1,465.02
Gilbert Stacy	\$860.60			15.32	\$875.92
Samuel P. Stratton	\$982.94		\$150.00	17.49	\$850.43
John A. Tenney	\$884.51			15.75	\$900.26
Sarah S. Van Horn	\$778.20			13.91	\$792.11

TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS Continued...

LIBRARY FUNDS					
Charles Stoughton	\$3,974.50			70.76	\$4,045.26
Cora Holmes	\$1,127.53			20.08	\$1,147.61
Harris Trust	\$9,669.29			172.17	\$9,841.46
Mary Morgan	\$965.08			17.18	\$982.26
Riverside Library	\$3,419.74			60.89	\$3,480.63
Library Trustees	\$25.16			0.45	\$25.61
Gill Protective	\$823.23			14.66	\$837.89
Benevolent Society	\$2,393.64			42.62	\$2,436.26
Total Library Funds	\$22,398.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$398.81	\$22,796.98
Bank of Western Massachusetts					
Stabilization Fund	\$117,800.46	\$125,326.19	\$118,000.00	1,258.78	\$126,385.43
General Funds	\$242.85	\$825.00	\$1,000.00	2.73	\$70.58
Unemployment	\$49,696.36		\$20,000.00	530.78	\$30,227.14
Recreation Revolving	\$5,862.08		\$946.02	104.31	\$5,020.37
Sewer Loan	\$65,133.44			1,159.73	\$66,293.17
Quintus Allen	\$10,452.75		\$2,138.61	168.99	\$8,483.13
Payroll Account	\$61,639.85	\$3,881,041.62	\$3,784,561.49	1,641.00	\$159,760.98
Money Market	\$437,424.81	\$802,148.99	\$1,068,000.00	1,094.15	\$172,667.95
Cert. of Deposit	\$0.00	\$450,000.00		\$569.00	\$450,569.00
Cert. of Deposit	\$0.00	\$350,000.00			\$350,000.00
Webster Bank					
Vendor Account	\$5,706.50	\$34,830.00	\$44,000.00	33.35	(\$3,430.15)
Money Market	\$57,744.00		\$57,945.06	283.83	\$82.77
Stabilization	\$446.70			10.51	\$457.21
MMDT					
Rehab Account	\$19,529.25			418.51	\$19,947.76
Arts Lottery	\$3,148.42		\$2,250.00	67.47	\$965.89
General Funds	\$1,592.30			34.12	\$1,626.42
Bank of America					
Checking	\$1,707.50			17.79	\$1,725.29
Money Market	\$2,173.74			40.53	\$2,214.27
Payroll	\$1,013.64			4.64	\$1,018.28
Total General Fund Accounts	\$936,740.48	\$5,644,171.80	\$5,103,770.05	9,031.32	\$1,486,173.55

Town of Gill
 Combined Balance Sheet- All Funds
 June 30, 2005

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Trust & Agency Funds	General Long Term Debt
Assets					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	978,374	287,731	3,464	221,185	-
Property Taxes	78,087				
Excise Taxes	70,130				
Tax Liens	90,164	4,460			
User Charges		15,724			
Less: Allowance for Uncollectable Accts.	-73,368				
Due from Others		3,773			
Due from Other Governments		213,521			
Tax Foreclosures	8,945				
Amount to be Provided for the Payment of Debt					97,525
Total Assets	1,152,232	525,209	3,464	221,185	97,525
Liabilities					
Warrants Payable	23,720	21,868	400	893	
Accounts Payable	16,351				
BAN Payable			245,000		
Accrued Payroll	9,104	1,690			
Employee Withholdings	-1,042				
Other Liabilities	3,352				
Deferred Revenue:					
Property Taxes	4,720				
Other (excise & tax liens)	169,138	237,478			
Bond Indebtedness					97,525
Total Liabilities	225,343	261,036	245,400	893	97,525
Fund Equity					
Reserved for Continuing Appropriations	85,463				
Reserved for Future Excluded Debt	161,053				
Reserved for Subsequent Years Expenditures	341,691				
Unreserved Fund Balance	338,682	264,173	-241,936	220,292	
Total Fund Equity	926,889	264,173	-241,936	220,292	0
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity	1,152,232	525,209	3,464	221,185	97,525

Treasurer's Summary FY 2005

	Warrants 7-1-04 - 6-30-05	Receipts 7-1-04 - 6-30-05
July 2004	\$445,512.81	\$65,069.67
Aug. 2004	\$168,255.11	\$41,337.63
Sept. 2004	\$383,068.30	\$116,746.39
1st Quarter	\$996,836.22	\$223,153.69
Oct. 2004	\$83,161.59	\$61,681.92
Nov. 2004	\$127,126.22	\$109,859.53
Dec. 2004	\$675,982.08	\$484,046.68
2nd Quarter	\$886,269.89	\$665,588.13
Jan. 2005	\$97,390.67	\$199,141.76
Feb. 2005	\$89,216.15	\$194,552.79
Mar. 2005	\$104,020.83	\$713,462.49
3rd Quarter	\$290,627.65	\$1,107,157.04
Apr. 2005	\$229,495.72	\$320,752.62
May 2005	\$407,879.76	\$668,216.98
June 2005	\$97,771.06	\$228,225.08
4th Quarter	\$735,146.54	\$1,217,194.75
Total	\$2,908,880.30	\$3,203,096.54
Beginning Balance 7-1- 04	\$1,196,466.09	
Receipts	\$3,203,096.54	
Warrants	(\$2,908,880.30)	
Ending Balance	\$1,490,679.33	

FY2005 General Fund Revenue Report

Account Name/Number	Estimated	Revenue	Revised	Actual	
	Revenue	Revisions	Estimated	Revenue	Balance
			Revenue		
<u>TAXES AND EXCISES</u>					
Personal Property Taxes	01-4-110-000	31,053.42	31,053.42	41,658.16	(10,604.74)
Real Estate Taxes	01-4-120-000	1,509,309.77	1,509,309.77	1,522,181.36	(12,871.59)
Motor Vehicle Excise	01-4-150-000	133,000.00	133,000.00	189,662.07	(56,662.07)
Classified Forest Excise	01-4-163-000			2,333.91	(2,333.91)
Rollback Taxes	01-4-164-000		2,000.00	6,951.74	(4,951.74)
Interest on Property Tax	01-4-171-000	2,000.00		1,981.73	(1,981.73)
Interest on Excises	01-4-172-000			1,560.21	(1,560.21)
Interest Tax Liens	01-4-173-000				0.00
TOTAL TAXES and EXCISES:		1,675,363.19	0.00	1,675,363.19	1,766,329.18
					(90,965.99)
<u>DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES</u>					
Fees	01-4-320-000	6,000.00	6,000.00		6,000.00
Town Clerk Fees	01-4-320-002			252.35	(252.35)
RMV Clearing Charges	01-4-320-004			760.00	(760.00)
MRF Recycling Fees	01-4-321-009			1,078.57	(1,078.57)
Tax Collectors Fees	01-4-321-010			3,992.18	(3,992.18)
Tax Collector Fees	01-4-322-000			2,079.99	(2,079.99)
Admin Fee Off Duty Detail	01-4-323-000			392.00	(392.00)
Fire Arms Dealers Lic	01-4-324-001			50.00	(50.00)
PD Accident Reports	01-4-324-002			130.00	(130.00)
Pistol, Gun, FID Permits	01-4-324-003			780.00	(780.00)
Fees - Police	01-4-324-004			35.00	(35.00)
Fees - Health Board	01-4-326-000			550.00	(550.00)
Fees - Dog Pickup	01-4-327-000			160.00	(160.00)
Fees - Planning Board	01-4-328-000			125.00	(125.00)
Fees - Conservation Comm.	01-4-329-000			135.00	(135.00)
Fees - Town Clerk	01-4-360-000			25.70	(25.70)
Rentals	01-4-360-000	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00	(3,000.00)
Liquor Licenses	01-4-410-000			4835	(4,835.00)
Licenses - Other	01-4-420-000	16,000.00	16,000.00		16,000.00
Building Permits	01-4-450-000			35,392.00	(35,392.00)
B.O.S.- Lic, Perm, Certs	01-4-450-122			2,218.00	(2,218.00)
T. Clerk-Lic, Perm, Certs	01-4-450-161			613.10	(613.10)
Planning-Lic, Perm, Certs	01-4-450-175			375.00	(375.00)
F.D.-Lic, Perm, Certs	01-4-450-220			250.00	(250.00)
B.O.H.-Lic, Perm, Certs	01-4-450-510			1,100.00	(1,100.00)
Permits - Police Dept	01-4-451-000			25.00	(25.00)
Permits - Plumbing	01-4-452-000			6,348.00	(6,348.00)
Permits - Wiring	01-4-453-000			3,365.00	(3,365.00)
Certificate of Inspection	01-4-454-003			813.00	(813.00)
Installer's Permit	01-4-455-001			425.00	(425.00)
Perc Tests	01-4-455-002			1,050.00	(1,050.00)
Septic Permits	01-4-455-007			300.00	(300.00)
Fire Dept Permits	01-4-456-000			185.00	(185.00)
Candle Permits	01-4-456-002			200.00	(200.00)
Oil Tank Permit	01-4-456-007			75.00	(75.00)
Smoke Detectors	01-4-456-009			295.00	(295.00)
Fire-Oil Burner Inspect	01-4-456-010			100.00	(100.00)
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES:		25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	74,509.89
					(49,509.89)
<u>STATE REVENUE</u>					
State Owned Land	01-4-610-000	3,103.00	3,103.00	3,099.00	4.00
Abatements to Veterans	01-4-613-000			1,700.00	(1,700.00)
Surviving Spouse Abatement	01-4-614-000	1,700.00	1,700.00		1,700.00
Abatements to the Elderly	01-4-616-000	4,016.00	4,016.00	5,522.00	(1,506.00)
Lottery Aid	01-4-661-000	185,131.00	185,131.00	185,131.00	0.00
Municipal Relief Aid	01-4-661-001			19,371.00	(19,371.00)
Extended Polling Hours	01-4-680-002			631.00	(631.00)
Misc. Sec. of State Receipt	01-4-699-000			21.24	(21.24)
TOTAL STATE REVENUE:		193,950.00	0.00	193,950.00	215,475.24
					(21,525.24)
<u>OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REVENUE</u>					
RMV Fines	01-4-770-001	15,000.00	15,000.00	19,637.50	(4,637.50)
Fines - District Court	01-4-770-002			435.00	(435.00)
Dog Fines	01-4-770-004			25.00	(25.00)
TOTAL OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL REV:		15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	20,097.50
					(5,097.50)
<u>MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES</u>					

FY2005 General Fund Expense Report

Account Name/Number	Previous Year's Balance	Original Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Actual Expended	Balance
GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
Moderator	015114-110	152.00	20.00	172.00	171.45	0.55
Selectboard Salary	015122-110	5884.00		5884.00	5884.00	0.00
Clothing Allowance	015122-200	550.00		550.00	549.67	0.33
Selectboard Expense	015122-780	3790.00	(76.32)	3713.68	1832.73	1880.95
Surplus Equipment	015122-850	1000.00		1000.00		1000.00
Wages Town Coordinator	015123-110	36095.00		36095.00	35806.77	288.23
Expenses Town Coordinator	015123-780	750.00		750.00	744.13	5.87
Finance Committee	015131-780	110.00		110.00	110.00	0.00
Reserve Fund	015132-780	2500.00	(1500.00)	1000.00		1000.00
Town Accountant	015135-110	12777.00	4195.50	16972.50	16223.94	748.56
Accountant Expense	015135-780	1535.00		1535.00	1535.00	0.00
Assessors Salary	015141-110	7145.00		7145.00	5749.49	1395.51
Assessors Clerk	015141-111	6644.00		6644.00	6644.00	0.00
Assessors Legal Counce	015141-300	200.00		200.00		200.00
Assessors Expense	015141-780	3750.00		3750.00	3735.32	14.68
Treasurer Salary	015145-110	9981.00		9981.00	9981.00	0.00
Treas/Coll Banking Ser	015145-240	150.00		150.00	5.84	144.16
Treas/Tax Title Foreclosure	015145-241	750.00		750.00		750.00
Treasurer Expense	015145-780	1800.00	133.60	1933.60	1933.60	0.00
Tax Collector Salary	015146-110	9404.00		9404.00	9404.00	0.00
Tax Collector Expense	015146-780	3433.00	111.32	3544.32	3544.32	0.00
Legal Expenses	015151-300	5000.00		5000.00	3562.25	1437.75
Town Clerk Salary	015161-110	8405.00		8405.00	8405.00	0.00
Town Clerk Expense	015161-780	3595.00		3595.00	3397.95	197.05
Sal. Elect/Listers/Reg	015162-780	2245.00		2245.00	1707.84	537.16
Conservation Commissio	015171-780	500.00		500.00	184.48	315.52
Planning Board	015175-780	745.00		745.00	175.92	569.08
Board of Appeals	015176-780	500.00		500.00		500.00
Town Hall & Riverside	015192-781	17500.00	6478.70	23978.70	23673.13	305.57
Garage/Public Safety Bldg	015192-782	10250.00	1500.00	11750.00	11243.00	507.00
Ins. Property & Liability	015193-740	41000.00	(55.00)	40945.00	39245.00	1700.00
FRCOG Assessment	015199-120	8851.00		8851.00	7714.50	1136.50
FRCOG Fee for Service	015199-121	4950.00		4950.00	3981.45	968.55
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	211941.00	10807.80	222748.80	207145.78	15603.02
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY						
Police Department Expenses	015210-780	149166.00	3880.00	153046.00	153046.00	0.00
Fire Department Expenses	015220-780	56226.00	3000.00	59226.00	57977.61	1248.39
Fire Department Jaws of Life	015220-805		20000.00			20000.00
FRCOG Inspection Program	015241-300	20214.00		20214.00	20213.64	0.36
Civil Defense	015291-780	400.00		400.00	105.84	294.16
Dog Fund	015292-780	800.00		800.00	465.00	335.00
Animal control Officer	015292-781	800.00		800.00	476.22	323.78
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPI	0.00	227606.00	26880.00	254486.00	232284.31	22201.69
EDUCATION						
Gill/Montague School District	015301-320	988535.00	(25000.00)	963535.00	853203.37	110331.63
Gill Elementary School Boiler	015302-805		25000.00	25000.00		25000.00
Tech School District	015302-320	75577.00		75577.00	69651.00	5926.00
TOTAL EDUCATION	0.00	1064112.00	0.00	1064112.00	922854.37	141257.63
PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES						
Highway Department	015420-780	225980.00	23500.00	249480.00	241456.53	8023.47
Bridges & Street Light	015424-780	5000.00	21.30	5021.30	5021.30	0.00
Tree & Forestry	015429-780	4095.00		4095.00	2844.52	1250.48
Solid Waste District	015431-300	2121.00		2121.00	2121.00	0.00
Hazardous Waste Collection	015433-290	800.00		800.00	792.00	8.00
Solid Waste Removal	015433-300	44000.00	(1633.60)	42366.40	39166.76	3199.64
Recycling	015433-780	22000.00	(1500.00)	20500.00	13667.71	6832.29
Riverside Sewer System	015450-780	52000.00		52000.00	38759.78	13240.22
Cemetery Commission	015491-780	2500.00		2500.00	1622.56	877.44
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES	0.00	358496.00	20387.70	378883.70	345452.16	33431.54
HUMAN SERVICES						
Board of Health Salaries	015510-110	6514.00		6514.00	4985.12	1528.88
Board of Health Expenses	015510-780	500.00		500.00	88.46	411.54
Council on Aging	015541-780	5379.00		5379.00	5090.70	288.30
Veteran's Assessment	015543-690	5312.00		5312.00	2656.00	2656.00
Veteran's Benefits	015543-770	6000.00		6000.00		6000.00

FY2005 Other Fund Expense Report

Account Name/Number	Previous Year's Balance	Original Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Actual Expended	Balance
ENCUMBERED FROM LAST YEAR						
Encumbered Moderator Salary	025114-110	19.05		19.05	19.05	0.00
Encumbered Admin Secretary	025123-110	674.00		674.00	674.00	0.00
Encumbered Admin Asst Exp	025123-780	15.45		15.45	15.45	0.00
Encumbered Treasurer Salary	025145-110	160.77		160.77	160.77	0.00
Encumbered Treasurer Expense	025145-780	48.10		48.10	48.10	0.00
Encumbered Collector Salary	025146-110	175.79		175.79	175.79	0.00
Encumbered Town Clerk Salary	025161-110	158.91		158.91	158.91	0.00
Encumbered T.Hall/RM.Building	025192-781	56.94		56.94	56.94	0.00
Encumbered Police Expense	025210-780	2,165.76		2,165.76	2,165.76	0.00
Encumbered Fire Wages	025220-110	175.19		175.19	175.19	0.00
Encumbered Fire Chief Salary	025220-111	416.87		416.87	416.87	0.00
Encumbered FD Inspection Program	025220-300	27.95		27.95	27.95	0.00
Encumbered Highway Dept	025420-780	1,902.15		1,902.15	1,902.15	0.00
Encumbered Riverside Sewer Sys	025450-780	140.55		140.55	140.55	0.00
Encumbered BOH Salaries	025510-110	150.00		150.00	150.00	0.00
Encumbered Library Salary	025610-110	80.72		80.72	80.72	0.00
TOTAL FUND 02:		6,368.20	0.00	6,368.20	6,368.20	0.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS/ARTICLES						
Surplus Property	035122-850	2,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00
Assessor's Revaluation	035142-780	3,474.65	8,000.00	11,474.65	3,464.98	8,009.67
Clean Up Old Taxes	035146-201	3,536.25		3,536.25		3,536.25
Info Tech Expenses	035155-050		3,000.00	3,000.00	2,996.86	3.14
Agri Protect/Rest Prog	035171-781	22,847.50		22,847.50		22,847.50
Repairs & Maint-Town Buildings	035192-786	5,357.57		5,357.57		5,357.57
Fire Pond Sites Development	035220-840	7,618.74		7,618.74		7,618.74
Road Maint/Construction	035420-781	1,520.18		1,520.18		1,520.18
Historical Home Survey	035691-783	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00
Cable Commission	035699-340	2,000.00		2,000.00	271.60	1,728.40
TOTAL FUND 03:		49,354.89	11,000.00	60,354.89	6,733.44	53,621.45
REHABILITATION						
Fire Dept Second Floor	205220-001		3,800.00	3,800.00	3,699.00	101.00
Rehab Loan Paybacks	205780-000	38,971.80	(3,800.00)	35,590.31	4,711.12	30,879.19
Wage & Classification System	205780-152	2,834.95		2,834.95		2,834.95
TOTAL FUND 20:		41,806.75	0.00	41,806.75	8,411.12	33,815.14
CULTURAL COUNCIL						
Community Picnic	215204-001	350.00		350.00	350.00	
Music Therapy	215204-002	350.00		350.00	350.00	
Telling Our Story	215204-004	250.00		250.00	250.00	
Elem School Child Photos	215204-005	300.00		300.00	300.00	
Gill Magic	215204-006	300.00		300.00	300.00	
Mont Comm Band Concert	215204-007	350.00		350.00	350.00	
Gill Explorations	215204-008	750.00		750.00	350.00	400.00
\$ Available Funds	215300-000	818.19	2,067.47	2,885.66	284.49	2,601.17
TOTAL FUND 21:		3,468.19	0.00	3,468.19	2,534.49	3,001.17
HIGHWAY GRANTS						
Highway Grant #246106	235422-000		67,098.18	67,098.18	67,098.18	
Highway Grant #246108	235423-000	(28,180.76)	48,970.81	20,790.05	20,790.05	
TOTAL FUND 23:		(28,180.76)	0.00	116,068.99	87,888.23	87,888.23
SEWER FUND						
Available Sewer Charges	245440-000	83,797.16	43,151.99	126,949.15		126,949.15
Bill of Prior Year	245440-204		9,414.42	9,414.42	9,414.42	
Transfers to General Fund	245991-000				52,473.00	-52,473.00
TOTAL FUND 24:		83,797.16	0.00	136,363.57	61,887.42	74,476.15
SEPTIC GRANTS						
Septic Admin Expense	255433-010	4,747.57		4,747.57		4,747.57
Septic Available/Re loan	255433-090	36,708.66	1,159.73	37,868.39	2,292.00	35,576.39
Septic Loan Program	255511-000	1,760.00		1,760.00		1,760.00
TOTAL FUND 25:		43,216.23	0.00	44,375.96	2,292.00	42,083.96
REVOLVING FUNDS						
Plumbing Inspector	265243-000	-20.00		-20.00	-20.00	
Gas & Oil Inspector	265244-000	616.00	2,000.00	-1,930.00	686.00	546.00
TOTAL FUND 26:		596.00	2,000.00	-1,930.00	666.00	140.00
RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION						
Sale of Real Estate	275179-780	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00
Dog Fund	275292-000	3,108.94		723.75	3,832.69	3,832.69
Sale of Cemetery Lots Fnd	275781-000	11,093.26	-3,300.00	850.00	8,643.26	8,643.26
Cemetery Surv Maps	275781-040		3,300.00	3,300.00	2,300.00	1,000.00
Road Machinery Fund	275783-000	11,702.37		813.00	12,515.37	12,515.37
Trash Stickers	275784-000	29,392.25		34,436.00	63,828.25	32,292.00
TOTAL FUND 27:		56,296.82	0.00	36,822.75	93,119.57	34,592.00

FY2005 Other Fund Expense Report continued...

<u>MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS AND GIFTS</u>							
NMH Gifts	295122-000	35,707.44		17,000.00	52,707.44	34,169.35	18,538.09
Peer-to-Peer Grant	295122-220	-1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00		
D.A.R.E. Donations	295210-780	7.65			7.65	7.65	
Police Dept Ins Claims	295210-010			1,240.79	1,240.79	1,240.79	
Other Police Donations	295210-781	1,928.41		55.00	1,983.41	1,256.33	727.08
Community Policing 2003	295212-203	-2,276.50			-2,276.50	-2,276.50	
Community Policing 2004	295212-204	518.42			518.42	518.42	
Community Policing 2005	295212-205			45,600.00	45,600.00	44,193.17	1,406.83
Public Safety Equip Grant 2003	295213-203	676.97			676.97	676.97	
Public Safety Equip Grant 2004	295213-204	3,000.00		764.76	3,764.76	3,764.76	
Public Safety Equip Grant 2005	295213-205			3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Traffic Safety Grant 2003	295214-203	-1,617.83			-1,617.83	-1,401.42	-216.41
Traffic Safety Grant 2005	295214-205			2,216.72	2,216.72	3,192.98	-976.26
Fire Dept SAFE Grant	295220-235			3,017.29	3,017.29		3,017.29
Fire Assistance Grant 2005	295220-205			1,954.67	1,954.67	1,917.57	37.10
Local Preparedness Grant	295220-215				0.00	6,410.00	-6,410.00
Firefighting Equipment Grant	295220-225			15,000.00	15,000.00	12,179.62	2,820.38
VT Yankee Emrg Mgmt Fund	295221-202	3,979.88		7,881.00	11,860.88	7,121.21	4,739.67
Fire Dept FEMA Grant 2003	295222-203			34,830.00	34,830.00	34,830.00	
Snow Removal FEMA Grant	295420-680			7,430.49	7,430.49	7,430.49	
Bridge St. Anchorage	295429-780	320.70			320.70		320.70
MRIP Recycling Grant	295433-001	925.70			925.70		925.70
MAPHC/FRCOG Comm. Grant	295510-001	1,188.00			1,188.00	1,188.00	
Council on Aging Grant	295541-780	41.29		2,800.00	2,841.29	2,738.84	102.45
State Library Grant	295610-001	1,139.51		2,576.80	3,716.31	2,649.76	1,066.55
Friends of State Mem Library	295610-780	2,870.50		258.75	3,129.25	1,040.00	2,089.25
Library Donations	295610-782	1,143.82		976.50	2,120.32	75.00	2,045.32
\$Recreation Revolving Fund	295630-780	2,208.46		16,852.31	19,060.77	14,270.74	4,790.03
Ballfield Donations	295630-781	1,516.58			1,516.58		1,516.58
Historical Comm Donations	295691-780	1,082.61			1,082.61	69.94	1,012.67
Newsletter Donations	295699-780	357.92		556.65	914.57	381.78	532.79
Wetlands Protection Fund	295782-000	708.18			708.18		708.18
TOTAL FUND 29:		54,427.71	0.00	165,011.73	219,439.44	180,645.45	38,793.99
<u>MARIAMANTE LAND PURCHASE</u>							
Land Purchase	375100-100			245,000.00	245,000.00	241,935.72	3,064.28
TOTAL FUND 83:		0.00	0.00	245,000.00	245,000.00	241,935.72	3,064.28
<u>TRUST FUNDS</u>							
FY2002 Quintus Allen	825300-202	950.00			950.00		950.00
FY2003 Quintus Allen	825300-203	1,500.00			1,500.00		1,500.00
FY2005 Quintus Allen	825300-205		750.00		750.00		750.00
\$Quintus Allen Trust Fund	825300-820	8,664.14	-750.00	568.99	8,483.13		8,483.13
\$Cemetery Perpetual Care	825491-780	25,322.32		1,258.64	26,580.96	2,472.94	24,108.02
\$Library Trust Funds	825610-780	19,714.44		398.81	20,113.25		20,113.25
\$Unemployment Trust Fund	825913-780	25,467.57		3,080.78	28,548.35	427.74	28,120.61
TOTAL FUND 82:		81,618.47	0.00	5,307.22	86,925.69	2,900.68	84,025.01
<u>STABILIZATION FUND</u>							
Available Stabilization	835000-000	124,574.45	-13,000.00	15,269.29	126,843.74	20,000.00	106,843.74
Accounting Software	835135-050		13,000.00		13,000.00		13,000.00
TOTAL FUND 83:		124,574.45	0.00	15,269.29	139,843.74	20,000.00	119,843.74
TOTAL OTHER FUND EXPENSES:		517,344.11	13,000.00	392,762.10	923,106.21	656,713.75	511,392.46

Other Fund Revenues show within the Budget Revision Column

**2005 TAX COLLECTOR
ANNUAL REPORTS**

REAL ESTATE

2005 Committed	1,572,634.64	
Refunds	28,722.37	
Collected		1,511,713.45
Abated		26,735.33
Tax Title		7,366.83
Adjustments		0.55
Uncollected		55,550.12
2004 Outstanding 7/1/04	52,216.45	
Refunds	4,925.64	
Collected		49,929.40
Abated		495.24
Tax Title		
Adjusted		
Uncollected		7,515.23
2003 Outstanding 7/1/03		
Collected		
Refunded		
Adjusted		
Tax Title		
Uncollected		0.00
2002 Outstanding 7/1/02		
Collected		
Uncollected		0.00
2001 Outstanding 7/1/01		
Collected		
Uncollected		0.00
2000 Outstanding 7/1/01		
Collected		
Uncollected		0.00

**2005 TAX COLLECTOR
ANNUAL REPORTS**

SEWER USE FEES

2005 Committed	64,587.29	
Collected		48,982.64
Abated		
Refunds		110.16
To be Applied		
Uncollected		15,714.81
2004 Committed	16,607.71	
Collected		16,754.84
Added to Real Estate		
Refunds		147.14
Uncollected	- 0 -	
Added to 2004 Real Estate	4,886.10	
Collected		4,886.10

**2005 TAX COLLECTOR
ANNUAL REPORTS**

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

2005 Committed	162,561.67	
Refunds	2,156.05	
Collected		136,897.26
Abated		3,991.02
Adjusted		
To be Refunded		
Uncollected		25,663.91
2004 Outstanding	56,127.62	
Refunds	2,519.71	
Collected		52,953.15
Abated		1,125.79
Adjusted		0.1
Uncollected		3,174.47
2003 Outstanding	24,710.65	
Refunds	40.11	
Collected		9,139.45
Abated		322.4
Adjusted		14.67
Uncollected		15,571.18
2002 Outstanding	9,172.26	
Collected		8,300.42
Uncollected		871.84
2001 Outstanding	15,134.55	
Collected		
Uncollected		15,134.55
2000 Outstanding	1,975.21	
Collected		
Uncollected		1,975.21

**2005 TAX COLLECTOR
ANNUAL REPORTS**

PERSONAL PROPERTY

2005 Committed	31035.32	
Refunds		
Collected		30836.68
Abatements		193.08
Uncollected		5.54
2004 Outstanding	764.53	
Refunds		
Collected		686.25
Uncollected		78.28
2003 Outstanding	138.25	
Collected		
Refunded		
Uncollected		138.25
2002 Outstanding	163.78	
Collected		
Refunded		
Uncollected		163.78
2001 Outstanding	115.78	
Collected		
Refunded		
Uncollected		115.78
2000 Outstanding	425.58	
Collected		
Refunded		
Uncollected		425.58

**2004 TAX COLLECTOR
ANNUAL REPORTS**

FARM ANIMALS		
2004 Committed	343.5	
Collected		
Uncollected		343.5
2003 Committed	631.5	
Collected		
Uncollected		631.5
2002 Committed	906	
Collected		
Uncollected		906
2001 Outstanding 6/30/01	841.5	
2000 Outstanding 6/30/00	608.5	
1999 Outstanding 6/30/99	289	
1998 Outstanding 6/30/98	282	
1997 Outstanding 6/30/97	331.5	
1996 Outstanding 6/30/96	347.5	
FOREST PRODUCTS EXCISE		
2005 Committed	1978.36	
Refunds		
Collected		1978.36
Uncollected		0.00
2004 Outstanding	224	
Collected		224
Uncollected		
OTHER		
M.V. Excise Clearing Charges Collected	760	
M.V. Excise Interest Collected	1981.73	
Sewer Use Interest Collected	705.08	
Interest on Real Estate, Personal Property	6998.43	
Other Taxes Collected	1078.57	
Total Collected & Paid to Treasurer	\$1,883,727.24	

**TOWN CLERK
Financial Report
July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005**

Birth Certificates	\$65.00
Death Certificates	\$55.00
Marriage Certificates	\$45.00
Special Permits	\$400.00
Site Plan Reviews	\$125.00
Street Lists	\$140.00
Zoning Bylaws	\$87.00
Business Certificates	\$260.00
Raffle Permits	\$30.00
Dog Fees	<u>\$187.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,394.00

TOWN MEETING MINUTES
AND ELECTION RESULTS



FOR THE
CALENDAR YEAR 2005

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
April 4, 2005**

Moderator Ray Steele called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Gill Town Hall, with 24 registered voters in attendance and a total of 28 people attending.

ARTICLE 1: Move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$14,000.00) for the Personal Insurance Account.

Passed by Unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 2: Move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$1000.00) for the Temporary Loan Interest Account.

Passed by Majority.

ARTICLE 3: Move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$5,000.00) for the Town Hall and Riverside Building Account.

Passed by Unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 4: Move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars and No Cents (\$5,880.00), Two Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$2,000.00) to the NMH Gifts Account and the balance, Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars and No Cents (\$3,880.00) to the Police Department Expense Account.

Passed by Counted vote. 12 Yes 10 No

ARTICLE 5: Move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Four Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and 50/100 Cents (\$4,195.50) to the Accountant Salary line.

Passed by Unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

A true copy. Attest:

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Gill Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
June 27, 2005
Registered Voters 1050 Voters Present 59

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 P.M. in the Gill Town Hall by the Moderator, Ray Steele.

Article 1. Move the Town vote to advise the Selectboard to request that Northfield Mount Hermon designate all future gifts from the school to be deposited into a general account and allow any and all use of said gifts to be determined by authority of town meeting.

9 Yes 31 No

Article 2. Move the town to vote to advise the Selectboard to continue with the oil and stone on Barney Hale Road to a point just past the residence of Ed Ambo Jr. at 88 Barney Hale Road

Amendment Presented:

Article 2 of the Warrant for the Gill Special Town Meeting of June 27, 2005 is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

The Town recommends that the Selectmen request the Planning Board, Conservation Committee and the Recreation Committee, to investigate the impact on the Town of paving or making significant alterations to its remaining gravel roads, including by oil and stone, and to consider the adoption of a bylaw relating to such paving or alterations, prior to any further paving of gravel roads in the Town.

Vote on Amendment 32 YES 21 NO

Vote on Article as Amended 32 YES 19 NO

Article 3. Move the Town vote to transfer from Solid Waste Removal (Account #015433-300) Fifteen Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,500.00) and from Recycling (Account #015433-780) Fifteen Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,500.00) for a total sum of Three Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$3,000.00) for the Fire Department Expense account.

Unanimously Passed

Article 4. Move the Town vote to recommend to the Selectboard a preferential use of the Mariamante parcel.

Purpose of this Article was to allow Selectboard to hear the feelings of the town in a general discussion before they proceed further. Consensus was to find something that would benefit the Town, even if it meant waiting a period and also involve the Ad Hoc Committee and the Planning Board.

Vote to Pass Over Unanimous

Article 5. Move the Town vote to transfer from FY05 Gill-Montague School District (Account #015301-320) Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to replace and provide installation of a boiler at the Gill Elementary School.

Passed Unanimous

Article 6. Move the Town vote to transfer from Stabilization (Account #825781-000) Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$20,000.00) to purchase, repair and/or replace the Jaws of Life equipment.

Passed Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

**A true copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
November 14, 2005
1063 Registered Voters Voters Present 20

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Moderator, Ray Steele in the upper level of the Gill Town Hall, Main Road.

MOTIONS:

Article 1. Move the Town vote in favor of a Town Bylaw to establish a Council of Aging, consisting of five members, the terms of the members to be one, two or three years, and, their successors appointed for terms of three years each for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs designed to meet the problems of the aging in coordination with programs of the department of elder affairs, as stated on MGL Chapter 40, Section 8B.

Passed Unanimously

Article 2. Move the Town vote to transfer from Available Stabilization, Account #835000-000, the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$15,000.00), in support of an archeological survey of the Mariamante parcel.

Passed 19 YES 1 NO

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33PM.

A true copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting – May 2, 2005
Population 1530 - 1057 Voters

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Ray Steele at 6:32 p.m. at the Gill Town Hall with approximately 83 people in attendance including 73 registered voters.

Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo read the beginning and closing of the warrant.

Article 1: Move the Town of Gill to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, by public advertisement, negotiation or otherwise, the land recently acquired by the Town from the Mariamonte School, provided that any such sale shall be subject to the prior approval of the Town at an Annual or Special Town Meeting of the Town. Requires a 2/3 Vote - 57 Yes 2 No

Article 2: Move the Town of Gill vote to support the Resolution Concerning the Massachusetts National Guard and the War in Iraq.

WHEREAS, the Town and its citizens strongly support the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognize the sacrifices that each of them is making. The Town and its citizens stand ready to help these fellow citizens in any way they can.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to: “provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections and repel Invasions,” and the Massachusetts Constitution provides for the General Assembly to direct the training and arming of members of the Massachusetts National Guard for defense of the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, at least since 1986 the President and the Congress have had nearly total control over state militias, including the Massachusetts National Guard;

WHEREAS, the costs of the call-up of Massachusetts National Guard members for deployment in Iraq has been significant, as reckoned in lost lives, combat injuries, psychic trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individuals, families, and businesses, interruption of careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in many Massachusetts communities;

WHEREAS, these are costs which would be suffered willingly were there a threat to our nation, but which are not tolerable where there is none;

WHEREAS, Massachusetts citizens have joined the Guard thinking that they would be serving their neighbors by helping with Massachusetts-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to America requiring transfer to active

duty;

WHEREAS, stop-loss orders violate the mutual understanding between Massachusetts citizens in the Guard and the Commonwealth and nation they agreed to serve; and

WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that the federalization and deployment of Massachusetts National Guard members has rendered the remaining Guard force unable to carry out its state activities effectively;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED, that the Town asks the members of Massachusetts' Congressional Delegation to initiate legislation in Congress to restore the balance between the federal government and the states, and to expressly limit the nearly complete federal control over State National Guard units to cases where:

- there is reasonable evidence that war powers are requested in order to protect against a threat to the territory of the United States,
- there is an insurrection or a plausible threat of insurrection; or
- there is a declaration of war under the United States Constitution;

RESOLVED, that the Town calls on the members of Massachusetts' Congressional Delegation to forthwith initiate legislation in Congress to effect the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units and personnel now serving in Iraq.

RESOLVED, that the Town directs the Governor of Massachusetts to forthwith order the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units and personnel now serving in Iraq.

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to:

- each member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation,
 - the Massachusetts Governor,
 - the Speaker of the Massachusetts House,
 - the President *Pro Tempore* of the Massachusetts Senate,
 - the Adjutant General of Massachusetts.

We the undersigned citizens of Gill, Massachusetts acting on our own initia-

tive and to promote the common good of all citizens of Gill and seeking to protect the rights and well being of all residents and citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and by operation of law, and executed by the below affirmed signatures of ten or more citizens of Gill, now place the Article entitled, Resolution Of The Town Of Gill Concerning The Massachusetts National Guard And The War In Iraq, which Article is attached hereto, upon the Warrant of the Town Meeting of Gill, Massachusetts to be holden at the Gill Town Hall on May 2, 2005 at 6:30 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be brought.

Motion to End Discussion 2/3 Vote Required 67 Yes to 2 No
Original Motion Defeated 24 Yes and 39 No

Article 3: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town.

Action to withdraw original Motion and Harriet Tidd presented new Motion

New Motion: MOVE THAT THE QUESTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE FISCAL 2004 TOWN REPORT CONTAINING THE REPORTS OF VARIOUS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE ADJOURNED MEETING IN JUNE BECAUSE THE BOOK WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL THIS DATE AND VOTERS HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE BOOK. Vote Passed by Majority

Article 4: Move the Town elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

Unanimously Accepted

Article 5: Move the Town vote to accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the fiscal year 2006 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Select board to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement.

Bart Bales asked to Amend Motion by adding to existing motion: IT IS UNDERSTOOD IN ACCEPTING THIS AMENDMENT THAT CHAPTER 90 TYPE FUNDS ARE GENERALLY USED FOR BOYLE ROAD, WEST GILL ROAD AND MAIN ROAD, AND FOR EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIRS AND FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MACHINERY ACCOUNT.

Vote on Amendment Defeated Yes 15 40 No

Original Motion Passed Unanimously

Article 6: Move the Town vote to authorize a revolving fund per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which revenues from trash sticker sales will be deposited into the fund and expended to pay the costs relating to disposal of solid and hazardous waste under the direction of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will

be limited to \$44,000, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Passed Unanimously

Article 7: Move the Town vote to approve the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Municipal Agreement with Recycle America Alliance and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for the receipt and processing of the town's recyclable materials at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility for ten years. Passed Unanimously

Move to continue the town Meeting to June 6, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to consider the remaining posted warrant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Continuation of the Annual Town Meeting June 6, 2005.

Meeting opened at 6:35 p.m. with approximately 79 people in attendance.

Town Clerk began meeting with a tribute to Harriet A. Tidd:

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few words about a "Most Special Gill Resident"

Harriet A. Tidd is stepping down from her position as assessor's clerk June 30th, 2005

However it is more than that---It is about a career that has been all about Gill.

In 1948 Harriet began as a reporter covering the town of Gill. She wrote the Gill news items, she covered the important events, she did her own photography. She also kept a very close eye on the Town Clerk at that time Earle Squires. As time went on Earle Squires realized that Harriet knew as much if not more than he about the doings of Gill. When he retired in 1974, Harriet became the first woman Town Clerk in Gill. She served until 2000 when she became Assessor's Clerk.

All total we are talking about more than 55 years—here.

When you ask Harriet a question---You really get an answer. You get educated.

Mr. Adie shared with me how, in her desire to get what was best for Gill---- She at times found herself fighting a one woman battle on the floor of the Annual Town Meeting.

We also have her to thank for the valuable Stoughton Genealogy information.

Harriet Remembers—For all those years of experience—She remembers it all. She owns a wealth of information about Gill.

Harriet--You are and have been—Gill's Reporter, Gill's Photographer, Gill's Finance Committee Member, Gill's School Committee Member, Gill's Histo-

rian, Gill's member to the Council on Aging, Gill's Record Keeper, Gill's Town Clerk, and Gill's Assessor—

You've done it all for Gill---

Harriet—Thank you for your time, your energy, and your constant dedication to making Gill what it is today---We love Gill—we love you.

POSTPONED FROM 5/6/05 Article 3: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, noting the following corrections.

Inside Front Cover: Cover photo of Flagg's tractor parked at the Gill Store in Gill Center-2004; Many thanks to Skeezy Flagg for volunteering his time and that of his tractor to pull the town float in the Greenfield and Montague's centennial celebrations in 2004.

Table of Contents: Employee wage plan not included in this year's report.

Page 8 – Fire Department Board of Engineers. Remove those listed and add the following:

Gene Beaubien; Kenneth Sears; Stuart Elliott; Donald Crouse, Jr.; Gary Parzych; Christopher Masloski; Casey Bergeron; Frank Matuszczack; David Argy; and Stephen McConley, Jr.

Page 14-17 Selectboard's Report. Delete all minutes of Chris Kacmarczyk and replace with Doug Kacmarczyk.

Page 39 Memorial Committee. Replace 2nd and 3rd sentence in 2nd paragraph, as follows:

Boy Scout Troop 6 participated in the Rose Ceremony and **Leroy Rose, Vice Cmdt. Of the Oak Ridge Detachment Marine Corp League read the commencement prayer.** Also on hand were members of the Gill Fire Department serving as honor guard and **Ken Garber and Matt Garber played taps.**

Passed Unanimously

Article 8: Move the town vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town, as follows:

Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$97.05
Special Town Meetings	20.05
Selectperson Chair	2,159.33
Second & Third Member, each	1,953.32
Town Clerk	10,165.55
Tax Collector	12,564.53
From Sewer Receipts	550.00

Treasurer	8,790.41
Assessors – Chair	2,592.67
Second & Third Member, each	2,386.66
Board of Health – Chair	1,103.79
Second & third member, each	1,000.78
Registrars – three members, each	48.28
Town Clerk	77.33

Discussion to consider amendment to vote Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer separately. Amendment defeated 38 to 9.

Final vote on original motion passed.

Article 9: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate, by taxation, those amounts listed under FY2006 REQUESTED in the FY2006 Omnibus, less amounts listed under the Available Funds Designation and less transfers from: Fire Ponds Sites (#035220-840) in the amount of \$7,618.74, Wage & Classification Study (#205780-152) in the amount of \$2,834.95, Clean Up Old Taxes (#035146-201) in the amount of \$3,536.25, Surplus Property (#035122-850) in the amount of \$2,000 and Fire Department Flooring (#205220-001) in the amount of \$101.00. All amounts are to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing year.

FY2006 OMNIBUS

	FY2005 REQUESTED	FY2006 REQUESTED	AVAIL FUNDS	Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Moderator	152	156.71		\$5	3.01%
Selectboard Salary	5,884.00	6,066.40		\$182	3.01%
Selectboard Expense	3,790.00	3,505.00		(\$285)	-8.13%
Legal Expenses	5,000.00	4,000.00		(\$1,000)	-25.00%
Surplus Equipment	1,000.00	-		(\$1,000)	-100.00%
Admin Salary	36,095.00	38,251.20		\$2,156	5.64%
Admin Expenses	750	800		\$50	6.25%
Finance Committee	110	125		\$15	12.00%
Reserve Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	\$	-	0.00%
Accountant Salary	12,777.00	19,837.00		\$7,060	35.59%
Accountant Expense	1,535.00	1,535.00	\$	-	0.00%
Assessors' Salary	7,145.00	7,366.50		\$221	3.01%
Assessors Clerk Salary	6,644.00	13,140.00		\$6,496	49.44%
Assessors Legal Counsel	200	200	\$	-	0.00%
Assessors Expense	3,750.00	4,194.00		\$444	10.59%
Treasurer Salary	9,981.00	8,790.41		(\$1,191)	-13.54%
Treas/Coll Banking Serv.	150	150	\$	-	0.00%
Treas/Tax Title Forecl.	750	750	\$	-	0.00%
Treasurer Expenses	1,800.00	1,800.00	\$	-	0.00%
Tax Collector Salary	9,404.00	13,114.53	550	\$3,711	28.29%
Tax Collector Expense	3,433.00	6,060.00		\$2,627	43.35%
Town Clerk Salary	8,405.00	10,165.55		\$1,761	17.32%
Town Clerk Expense	3,595.00	2,459.85		(\$1,135)	-46.15%
Sal.Elect/Listers/Reg.	2,245.00	1,000.00		(\$1,245)	-124.50%
Conservation Commission	500	500	\$	-	0.00%
Planning Board	745	745	\$	-	0.00%
Board of Appeals	500	500	\$	-	0.00%
IT Committee Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00	\$	-	0.00%
Town Hall/Riverside Mun.	17,500.00	23,300.00		\$5,800	24.89%
Garage/Public Safety Bldg.	10,250.00	11,235.00		\$985	8.77%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.	159,590.00	185,247.15	550	\$25,657	13.85%

PUBLIC SAFETY					
Police Department	149,166.00	160,000.00		\$10,834	6.77%
Animal Control Officer	800	800		\$ -	0.00%
Dog Fund	800	800		\$ -	0.00%
Clothing Allowance	550	-		(\$550)	
Fire Department	56,226.00	62,000.00		\$5,774	9.31%
Civil Defense	400	400		\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	207,942.00	224,000.00	-	\$16,058	7.17%
PUBLIC WORKS					
Highway Dept. (part FY05 s	225,980.00	266,366.00		\$40,386	
Bridges & Street Lights	5,000.00	6,000.00		\$1,000	
Tree & Forestry	4,095.00	4,000.00		(\$95)	
Sewer Department	52,000.00	52,525.40	52,000.00	\$525	1.00%
Solid Waste District	2,121.00	2,524.00		\$403	
Haz. Waste Collection	800	850	850	\$50	
Solid Waste Disposal	44,000.00	44,000.00	28,000.00	\$ -	
Recycling	22,000.00	22,200.00		\$200	
Cemetery Commission	2,500.00	2,500.00		\$ -	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	358,496.00	400,965.40	80,850.00	\$42,469	10.59%
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVI					
Bd. of Health Salaries	6,514.00	6,715.93		\$202	
Bd. of Health Expense	500	500		\$ -	
Total Bd. of Health	7,014.00	7,215.93		\$202	2.80%
Council on Aging	5,379.00	5,720.11		\$341	
Veteran's District	2,656.00	2,709.00			
Veteran's Benefits	6,000.00	4,000.00		(\$2,000)	
TOTAL HEALTH & HUMAI	21,049.00	19,645.04	-	(\$1,404)	-7.15%
CULTURE AND RECREAT					
Library Salary	9,412.00	9,703.77		\$292	
Library Expense	5,500.00	6,000.00		\$500	
Total Library	14,912.00	15,703.77		\$792	5.04%
Recreation Committee	3,600.00	3,600.00		\$ -	
Historical Commission	450	450		\$ -	
TOTAL CULTURE/REC.	18,962.00	19,753.77	-	\$792	4.01%
FIXED COSTS					
Garage Const. Loan - 3 yrs	20,540.00	19,592.00		(\$948)	
Recycling Truck	4,251.00	-		(\$4,251)	
Temporary Loan Interest	2,000.00	7,500.00		\$5,500	
Town Insurance	41,000.00	43,000.00		\$2,000	4.65%
Group Health & Life Ins	50,000.00	75,000.00		\$25,000	33.33%
Unemployment Comp	2,550.00	2,550.00		\$ -	
Franklin County Retirement	49,774.00	46,680.00		(\$3,094)	
TOTAL FIXED COSTS	170,115.00	194,322.00	-	\$24,207	12.46%
FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVI					
Statutory Assessment	3,667.00	2,039.64		(\$1,627)	-79.79%
Core Services Assesmmer	5,184.00	5,762.38		\$578	10.04%
Fee for Services Program	4,950.00	5,500.00		\$550	10.00%
Inspection Program (FY0	20,214.00	23,088.82		\$2,875	12.45%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT	34,015.00	36,390.84	-	\$2,376	6.53%

EDUCATION					
Gill/Montague School	988,535.00	1,095,041.00		\$106,506	9.73%
TFHS Roof	5,480.00	4,645.00	4,645.00	(\$835)	-17.98%
Elem. School Ren. Loan	34,063.69	32,406.00	32,406.00	(\$1,658)	-5.12%
TFHS/GFMS Bldg. Loan	166,261.00	107,980.43	31,943.72	(\$58,281)	-53.97%
Total Assessment		1,240,072.43			
Tech School District	75,577.00	74,149.00		(\$1,428)	-1.93%
Tech School Capital Progra	-	2,050.69	2,050.69	\$2,051	0.00%
TOTAL EDUCATION	1,269,916.69	1,316,272.12	71,045.41	\$46,355	3.52%
OMNIBUS SUBTOTAL	2,206,070.69	2,396,596.32		\$190,526	7.95%
AVAILABLE FUNDS	223,490.82	223,490.82	223,490.82	\$ -	
ROPOSED TRANSFER OF		16,090.94			
OMNILESS TOTAL	1,982,579.87	2,157,014.56		\$174,435	8.09%

AVAIL SR: Sewer Receipts **BP:** GM Bond Premium Receipt
FUNDS: ED: FY 05 GM (Excess E & D) **TSR:** Trash Sticker Receipts

Passed Unanimously

Article 10: Move the Town vote to transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund Four Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$400.00) for use at the Gill Elementary School.

Passed Unanimously

Article 11: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$178.00), which is the 2005 Licensing fee the Town received from Comcast, to be given to the Greenfield Community Television, Inc.

Passed Majority

Article 12: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and No Cents (\$5,632.00) to allow employment of a part-time clerical support person in the Town Offices.

Defeated by Standing Vote, Yes 22 No 29

Article 13: Move the Town Passover Article 13.

Passed Unanimously

Article 14: Move the Town Passover Article 14.

Passed Unanimously

Article 15: Move the Town Passover Article 15.

Passed Unanimously

Article 16: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation Three Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$3,000.00) for the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 17: Move the Town vote transfer from FY2005 Gill-Montague School District assessment Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$54,620.00) to purchase a 4-wheel drive dump truck for the Highway Department.

Passed Unanimously

Article 18: Move the Town vote to transfer from FY2005 Gill-Montague School District assessment One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,500.00) to add to the expense account for the Cable Commission.

Passed Majority

Article 19: Move the Town vote to transfer from FY2005 Gill-Montague School District assessment Twelve Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$12,000.00) to conduct a full financial audit for Fiscal Year 2004 and Fiscal Year 2005.

Passed Unanimous

Article 20: Move the Town vote to authorize and direct the Assessors to take One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$170,000.00) from unappropriated funds and Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-One Dollars and No Cents (\$19,371.00) one-time supplemental state aid to be used to stabilize the tax levy for fiscal year 2006.

Passed Unanimously

Article 21: Move the Town vote to transfer from NMH Gift Account the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$7,000.00) for the stabilization fund.

Passed Unanimously

Before adjournment it was asked to mention before the town the good works of Arthur Cohen of Gill.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:45 p.m.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND RESULTING TAX RATE

TOTAL TOWN BUDGET: \$ 1,199,182
TOTAL EDUCATION (OPERATING & CAPITAL): 1,316,272
TOTAL GROSS BUDGET: 2,515,453
Less TOTAL RECEIPTS: 842,531
(STATE, LOCAL, FREE CASH & AVAILABLE FUNDS)
ESTIMATED ASSESSED TO PROPERTY TAX: 1,672,922
ESTIMATED RESULTING TAX RATE: **\$14.91 per thousand**

SOURCES and APPLICATION OF FUNDING:

- ❖ Gill-Montague Excess & deficiency fund
(Surplus returned to the Towns due to increased state aid in FY04 via a reduction in the FY05 Gill-Montague assessment)
\$135,331 ~ Utilized for capital expenditures and closing debt.
- ❖ Gill-Montague Bond Premiums Returned to the Towns; bonus received by Gill-Montague due to bond market/low interest rates
\$31,943.72 ~ Utilized for reducing Gill-Montague Building Project debt
- ❖ Supplemental Lottery Aid from State granted in FY05
\$19,371 ~ Utilized to reduce the Tax Rate
- ❖ FY05 Free Cash Certified at \$234,220 (Money raised in FY04 and not expended) \$170,000 ~ Utilized to reduce the Tax Rate
- ❖ Monies in Dormant Accounts (raised by special article and not used or required) \$16,091 ~ Transferred to reduce amount raised and appropriated

A True Copy. Attest:

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk
June 6, 2005

Annual Election Results

Monday, May 16, 2005
Registered Voters 1,053
Participating Voters - 67

SELECTBOARD

<u>GMRSD-Gill</u>			
Ann Banash	55		Theodore
Castro-Santos	13		
Blanks	12		Sandy
Brown	1		
Write-ins	0	67	Sally
Shaw	1		
			Bill
Tombs	1		
BOARD OF ASSESSORS (3 Year Position)			Beverly
Demars	1		
Gregory Snedeker	52		Blanks
	50	67	15
Blanks			
Write-ins	0	67	

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (2 Year Position)

Blanks	46		
Write-ins (Donald LaChance)	21	67	

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER

Carrie Stevens	60		
Blanks	7		
Write-ins		0	67

CONSTABLES

Fred O. Chase, II	61		
Fred O. Chase, III	54		
Craig Gaudry	59		
Blanks	27		
Write-ins	0	67	

BOARD OF HEALTH

Edward Galipault, Jr.	65		
Blanks	2		

Write-ins 0 67

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Ann C. Perry 64
Blanks 3
Write-ins 0 67

TAX COLLECTOR

Veronica LaChance 60
Blanks 7
Write-ins 0 67

A true copy. Attest.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk
Town of Gill

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

2005 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2005 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2005 was 543 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	26	Erving	13	Montague	70	Sunderland	11
Buckland	21	Gill	11	New Salem	10	Warwick	10
Colrain	24	Greenfield	131	Northfield	26	Wendell	10
Conway	8	Heath	11	Orange	68	Whately	6
Deerfield	17	Leyden	8	Shelburne	14	Non-District	48

Franklin County Technical School awarded 105 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2005. This marked the third year that Massachusetts students were required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma. Once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The graduates also earned their vocational certificate along with their diploma. 39% of our graduates planned on going to college, 59% joined the area work force and 2% entered the military. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2005.

During the 2005 school year, the students from various vocational programs performed an estimated \$48,000 worth of service projects benefiting the various towns and city of Franklin County.

We were re-accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges for the next 10 year cycle. This attests to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and administration and the quality programs we offer with the support of our member towns. We used the School's Building Feasibility Study of 2002 to point out the need for a school building renovation project. Because we were able to show the NEAS&C Visiting Committee that we were already working on plans to address the problems of our aging school facility, we were able to get through this evaluation. The School Committee continues to work on a building renovation and expansion plan. We are waiting until the new Massachusetts School Building Authority produces their new regulations in July of 2007 to continue the formal process for applying for building assistance money. Once we know the percentage of cost sharing we will be working with each of our towns to finalize our planning process for a new or renovated school facility.

We continue to work with Greenfield community College to offer evening courses at Franklin County Technical School, as well as a new program that offers college credit courses after school to our students.

We also continue to work with Franklin County businesses, the Regional Employment Board and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to make sure that our graduates are part of the Economic Development for Franklin County.

We thank each and every citizen of Franklin County for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz, School Committee Chairman
Dr. Steven M. Johnson, Superintendent

ANNUAL REPORT
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FISCAL YEAR 2004 - 2005

SCHOOL COMMITTEE TERM EXPIRATION (May)

Joyce Phillips, Chair	2006
Mary Kociela, Vice-Chair	2007
Kristin Boyle	2006
Ted Castro-Santos	2008
Richard Colton	2007
Anthony Guglielmi	2008
Mike Langknecht	2008
Sally Shaw	2007
Valeria Smith	2006

**GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Gill-Montague Regional School District promotes intellectual, ethical, and social growth within a dynamic educational community in order to develop knowledgeable, productive, and caring citizens.

1,220 students attended the six schools in the district and 23 students were served in out of district special education placements. The enrollment in the previous year was 1,242 students in the six schools and 22 students in out of district special education placements. The projection for enrollment, based on keeping all of the students presently served, was for 35 fewer students. With a small gain of 14 students, one can state that the district enrollment is showing evidence of a trend toward stabilization.

The goal of the district is to have every school maximally enrolled in order to provide optimum financial support for quality educational programs for all of the children in Gill and Montague and including Erving students at the middle and high school levels. School district viability assures the viability of the communities, and serves to attract new residents and businesses.

The dedication of administrators, teachers and staff contributed to quality educational programs in each school, supplemented by grants from many sources, including support for arts programs by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and support for after school programs by the 21st Century Learning Centers federal grant. The district goal of keeping class sizes small (20-25) in the elementary grades was achieved without hiring additional classroom teachers. As in the previous year, the district continued the practice of assigning Title I Reading Support teachers to classrooms to allay the hiring of additional teachers.

A tragic event occurred in the community in August of 2004 that set the stage for the opening of the school year in a very sad way. A former high school student died as the result of an assault by a younger student. The Gill-Montague School Community Partnership formed a coalition of school counselors, representatives

from local agencies, District Attorney's office and police to plan a support system for students, teachers and parents during this difficult time. Dr. Bill Cosby, jr. contacted the district and proposed a presentation to parents of at-risk students, which was held January 19, 2004 at the TFHS Theater. The partnership built several community events around this important night, including a spaghetti dinner in December, a Girls' Night Out in March, a Boys' Night Out in April and a Community Picnic in May. The theme of the series was "6 Villages Raising our Children." This was a proactive plan to build community affiliation and support for mediation and conflict resolution. We have many people and organizations to thank for this enormous effort. This partnership continues to meet on a monthly basis to plan proactively to support children and youth in our community.

The \$33 million building project at the middle school-high school complex was completed, and a commemoration ceremony and grand opening was held October 24, 2004. The community can be very proud of the renovation and new middle school wing. The district is now able to provide 21st century educational programs with state-of-the-art technology support. One has only to tour the building to see the spacious theater, high-tech sound and lighting booth, TV studio, library, and computer labs to know that students will be well prepared for life after high school. The "green school" features, such as motion sensors for lighting and heating and photovoltaic cells for capturing solar energy, provide students with knowledge of how to conserve our valuable natural resources now and in the future. There are a few items left on the punch list and when those items are completed, the audit process will begin. Eventually, the towns will receive 90% of the cost of the project. The anticipated date for this reimbursement is 2007.

Regarding the goals for the district to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), the district as a whole met the AYP targets for FY2004. The Great Falls Middle School fell short by a few points in meeting the 8th grade mathematics AYP. The principal and teachers analyzed the students' scores and developed strategies to improve achievement in identified areas. Additionally, the school participated in the Priority Schools Initiative, sponsored by the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA). Professional development sessions were provided for teachers in the development of standards-based instructional units, and the school's leadership team was guided in the development of a more focused School Improvement Plan. In addition to classes on MCAS Prep during the school day at Turners Falls High School, a state Academic Support grant provided remediation classes for students who needed assistance in reading and mathematics to pass the MCAS, as all students must pass in order to graduate. The district also entered into a partnership with Boston College's Data Analysis Project. The mathematics data was broken down into subgroups – low-income, English Language Learners, Special Education – for analysis of MCAS scores. This information was shared with principals and teachers toward better understanding of areas needing improvement.

Successful completion of negotiations with the Gill-Montague Teachers Association was realized in March of 2005. The school committee and the association continued the tradition of negotiating collaboratively, using a modified Win-Win bargaining method known as Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB). All members of

the negotiating teams were trained in this method, and the cost of a facilitator was shared by the parties.

A three-year contract was ratified for the period of August 25, 2005 through August 24, 2008. Several issues were left on the table at the end of the negotiation period and those items will be taken up by a Joint Labor Management Team, beginning with the Mentor Program in the fall of 2005.

In December of 2004, the process of developing the FY2006 budget began with each school's budget being reviewed by the Superintendent's administrative team. Building based School Community Councils have input to the process through consultation with their principal. A Fiscal Collaboration/ Budget Subcommittee was established in 2003-2004, and continued in 2004-2005. This committee is made up of representatives of town finance committees, board of selectmen and school committee members. Budget deliberations were shared between the towns and the school. These meetings were open to the public and included Town Meeting Reps from Montague and parents and staff.

Many useful ideas were exchanged, and the budget for FY2006 was adopted at an increase of 4.8%, with the debt amount set aside, and approved by both towns in subsequent town meetings. The town meetings were continued to June to allow time for the legislature to debate and settle the education and town funding levels for the year. While no new positions were added from the initial restoration of elementary vocal music and the 7.34 positions of the previous year, the foundation was laid for the future.

The Elementary Study Group (ESG), established in 2003-2004, continued to meet monthly in 2004-2005. Subcommittees presented and discussed the research on best practices for elementary education, reviewed the historical information, and prepared and mailed out 1,000 surveys to a random sampling of voters in Gill and Montague. 165 people returned their surveys and the results were tabulated over the summer and presented to the school committee. The results showed the following five elements of quality elementary education: (1) teacher effectiveness; (2) small class size; (3) high quality academic program; (4) art and music, and (5) school discipline. The next step in the process was completed, that of identifying several options for configuration of elementary schools in the district. The options were laid out in a matrix, and the top three options were identified by the ESG and then rated and ranked. Those three options are in the process of being evaluated based on a list of criteria and will be presented to the school committee in the fall or winter of 2005-2006.

Initiatives Focusing on Improving Student Achievement and School Climate

1 Responsive Classroom and Responsive Design for Middle School

We were fortunate to establish a partnership with Northeast Foundation for Children (NEFC), co-founded by Chip Wood, Principal of Sheffield, and now housed in the Colle Opera House. This collaboration will eventually provide model schools in our district that will exhibit the characteristics of a respectful learning environment for all students and teachers. To date, 35 teachers and paraprofessionals have benefited by the NEFC summer train-

ing. In addition, the middle school principal and teachers have been trained in 2004-2005, in the Responsive Design for Middle Schools to establish similar standards for a respectful learning environment at Great Falls Middle School. This provides a seamless transition from elementary to middle school for all students in the district. This work was underwritten by a \$20,000 contribution of services from NEFC in 2004-2005.

2 Whole Faculty Study Groups (WFSG)

Research has proven that the best professional development for teachers occurs when teachers are provided opportunities to identify student needs, conduct research and establish action plans for creating new strategies for use in their classrooms, and then reflect on the outcomes with colleagues in study groups. Continually reviewing data, revamping lessons, and assessing study work provides on-going, job-embedded development for teachers. Superintendent Sue Gee has worked with Carlene Murphy, founder of the Whole Faculty Study Group process. The establishment of WFSGs at all schools will take place over the next five years. Hillcrest Elementary and Grade 3 at Sheffield began WFSGs in the spring of 2004 and this work continued in 2004-2005.

1 PTO Council

Another district-wide initiative was launched this year, known as First Day of School America. Research shows that students perform better in school when parents are actively involved. The PTO Council met four times with the Superintendent to coordinate district-wide activities, and to plan a First Day of School for GMRSD in August of 2005. Franklin Medical Center spear-headed the effort by releasing employees for the First Day Celebrations in both GMRSD and Greenfield schools.

Community Outreach

The Gill-Montague Education Fund, a non-profit entity whose purpose is to raise funds to enhance instruction in the arts, academics and athletics, was rejuvenated with the appointment of a new Board of Directors. An effort by many planners and contributors raised \$14,000 for mini-grants for teachers. The First Annual Gill-Montague Gala was held on April 9, 2005 at the Turners Falls High School Theater. Many thanks go to Nick Waynelovich for the generous donation of his own and his family and friends' talents in the production of this event, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The 2004-2005 school year was challenging and rewarding. We are grateful for the dedication of teachers and staff and the support of parents and the community as we continue the process of rebuilding and renewing the district. We will not only restore essential programs for students in the coming years, we will also create new ways of improving student achievement. We know that the community will thrive with an excellent school district. There is much to be grateful for and much good work to do.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue M. Gee, Superintendent

Gill Elementary School

For the school year 2004-2005, Gill Elementary School had an enrollment of 99 children in kindergarten through Grade 6. Classroom teachers were supported in their work by a Special Needs teacher and there was an additional Special Needs teacher responsible for the operation of the program for children on the autism spectrum. The teaching staff also collaborated with a skilled group of paraprofessionals to create a warm, friendly and academically challenging program for each child. Staff and students continued to work together to pursue the identified core values, which call for ownership, investment, and commitment to the social, academic, and community growth of the school.

The biggest change in the school was the reinstatement of an additional classroom teacher. Steve Baskowski was brought back from the middle school to regain his post as fourth grade teacher. In addition, there was the return of the music program. Nan Sadoski was rehired to bring music back to all of the elementary schools in the district. There was additional changeover of staff with the major addition of Joanne Rabideau as the sixth grade teacher. This influx of new and returning teachers energized the building and helped create a very positive school year.

There was a significant focus on arts last year. We had a reinstated music program to go along with our instrumental music program. Plus, the PTO was able to raise sufficient funds to hire Anne Larsen as our artist-in-residence. Anne brought her teaching experience to the school on a weekly basis and helped reinvigorate our visual arts program. With the addition of certain grant funds and the efforts of the parent group we re-established the all-school play. After a one year hiatus, we were back on stage with an extravagant rendition of "The Ugly Duckling." Artistic director, Court Dorsey, was supported by musical director, John Van Eps, and parent volunteer, Mary Reeder, to put together a terrific play. Finally, we had the opportunity for the sixth year to work with renowned storyteller Eshu Bumpus. Eshu works with each class to develop their personal narrative skills in storytelling and writing. This concentration of the arts (music, visual arts, theater and storytelling) was a conscious scheme to engage each child within an increased level of expressiveness. Grants from the Gill Arts Lottery Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Quintas Allen Fund all helped support these efforts.

Accomplishments for the 2004-2005 school year included the following:

Expanded student experiences and supported in-school curriculum by utilizing local and regional resources through a series of field trips. Local field trips included visits to museums (Springfield Science Museum), and farms, as well as Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, a ride on the Quinnetucket River boat, Morse Hill Environmental Center, and Indian House at Historic Deerfield. In addition students took day long trips to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire and the Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. The sixth grade took a trip to the Sargent Center in Hancock New Hampshire for a week long environmental education experience in the middle of the winter. That trip represented a new undertaking, replacing the former journey to Nature's Classroom. The students upon returning to

school related many exciting stories of skiing, sledding, snow constructions along with a deeper understanding of winter ecology and their own newly discovered sense of independence.

Parent involvement continued to be a key ingredient of the school's success. Parents organized the school library program. This included purchasing, cataloging, and repairing books, and operating the library program each week. This marked the ninth consecutive year that parents have operated the school library and provided students with the opportunity to explore the world through the books, stories and poems of our collection.

The Gill PTO raised funds via our annual Read-a-thon, and the always eventful carnival. In addition, family events such as the Book Fair, Holiday Crafts Night, the Cookie Exchange, the skating party, the *Polar Express* special showing, and the family dances were organized with characteristic aplomb. PTO funds were used to support all of the arts program, and special events. This took a tremendous amount of effort to raise the funds to supplement the program at school.

Staff development activities were numerous. Three teachers continued their participation in an extended staff development program in American History coordinated through Historic Deerfield, Inc. This program led to a series of field trips to Historic Deerfield to study colonial life and an upgrading of the social studies and history curriculum. Two teachers were trained in the techniques and philosophy of the Responsive Classroom. This approach promotes a humanistic and democratic system of developing a positive school culture. There was also a continuation of work in understanding the results of the MCAS tests, and efforts were made to utilize that information to alter classroom instruction. In addition, we successfully initiated the electronic report card system. This enabled staff to link student efforts with the state's curriculum frameworks and was the culmination of a significant amount of work by staff to organize the new form.

Finally, there was the display of the 2004 World Series Trophy in the school's All-Purpose Room to the joy of all New Englanders, and specifically the local baseball fans.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Mahler
Principal, Gill Elementary School

Great Falls Middle School

Great Falls Middle School is an exemplary middle school of approximately 200 students in grades seven and eight. A team structure, common planning time, flexible block scheduling, and philosophy that acknowledges the needs of young adolescents are what set us apart from junior highs and many other middle schools. We take great pride in the quality of the education that we offer our students and in the cooperative and respectful atmosphere where students and teachers work and learn together. Great Falls Middle School is housed in the new middle school addition attached to the East end of Turners Falls High School. While

Great Falls Middle School is substantially separate from the High School, the library, gymnasium, auditorium, band room, and cafeteria are shared facilities.

Great Falls Middle School is composed of two interdisciplinary, academic teams, one at the seventh grade level, and one at the eighth grade level. Each team includes teachers of math, science, language arts and social studies as well as special education. A third team, the Eagles is composed of the teachers of exploratory classes such as family and consumer science, health, physical education, technology education, and world languages. In addition to the four academic courses and the exploratory courses, Great Falls students also participate in skills classes which include lessons in art, computer applications, keyboarding, library/research skills, nutrition, and data collection/analysis. In addition, all students participate in a silent reading program designed to improve their reading level and expose them to a wide variety of authors and genres.

Throughout the year, students have the option of participating in marching band, jazz band and chorus as well as several after school clubs. In addition, all students are invited to participate in a variety of after school activities offered daily through the 21st Century Community Learning Center. The learning center offerings include a wide range of activities such as the homework help center, beaded jewelry, movie making, flag football, and juggling to name a few. In addition to the activities already mentioned, students may participate in the inter-scholastic sports program which includes soccer, football, field hockey, cross country, volleyball, golf, basketball, swimming, baseball, softball, tennis, and track.

The highlights of 2004-2005 at Great Falls Middle School:

- 1 Responsive Designs for Middle School: During the summer, approximately 20 middle school teachers spent three weeks training in the methods of Responsive Designs for Middle School in preparation for implementation in 04-05. The program is a curriculum structure that combines the teaching of social and academic skills in a manner that is respectful of children's developmental needs and helps create a classroom climate conducive to purposeful work, creativity and cooperation. The components include Circle of Power and Respect (CPR held each morning from 7:45 – 8:10), student development of school-wide rules, and a whole school commitment to respectful interaction between students and teachers. The program has been very successful and more staff will be trained during the summer of 2005.
- 2 Open House: Meeting with parents, family members, and people in the community is essential to an effective school program. At our annual open house on September 28th, we all came together to learn about the middle school program and the new middle school facility and its many advantages for our students. The open house is always a wonderful way to start the year and helps parents and teachers get to know each other as they begin the important work together of educating children.
- 3 Connecting with the Connecticut: Real-life science is happening all around us. It is important to Great Falls that our students realize that the things they learn about in class are directly related to the things happen-

- ing in the real world. Participating in this grant program with the Pioneer Valley Regional and Frontier Regional School Districts has provided the districts with \$200,000 worth of equipment and professional development. Students have learned to use sophisticated data collections instruments and computers to gather data on water clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and turbidity. Many of them have contributed data to national organizations mapping water quality throughout the country.
- 4 The eighth Annual Community Pot Luck Supper: Parent and community involvement in the education of our young people is essential to any successful school. This annual event provides an opportunity for students, parents and staff to make critical connections and get to know one another while they enjoy a traditional New England pot luck supper. It also serves as the culminating activity for the annual school raffle which raised \$5,000 for student activities. This year, we once again had the honor of hosting this memorable event. During dessert, student dancers and singers as well as the faculty band entertained the attendees.
 - 5 GFMS/TFHS musical production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat”: Providing students with a wide variety of activities and learning experiences as a means of educating the “whole child” is one of the middle school goals. In this endeavor, more than 100 middle school and high school students joined together to perform this classic production. A tremendous amount of help from parents, staff, and the community preparing sets and costumes went into making this a wonderful event. The production in the newly renovated theater was truly a marvelous experience.
 - 6 The 19th Annual G.F.M.S. Social; Social as well as academic development is focused on at the middle school level. This event provides the opportunity for students to work together to plan, organize, and finance a large social event. The Annual social is a semi-formal dance planned and sponsored by the Student Council and Student Organized Services. This year we were able to hold the event in the new middle school/high school cafeteria. The Social was, as always **the** social event of the year for middle school students.
 - 7 Community Service: As citizens of any community, it is important that students understand and value the need to be of service to others. Once again, the student Great Falls Middle School Student Council and Student Organized Services (SOS), with the charitable assistance of the middle school community, successfully responded to the needs of others by raising \$1,000 to contribute to victims of the tsunami. This was enough money to build a new house for an entire family.
 - 8 Student Leadership Conference: This year Great Falls hosted the 2005 Annual Student Leadership Conference. High school and middle school students from districts throughout the valley participated in the day’s events. Workshops and performances designed to build strong student leaders were held throughout the day. The event was so successful, that we have agreed to host it again in 2006.

Great Falls Middle School provides a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment and a supportive transition from elementary to secondary school.

The program is specifically designed to meet the needs of early adolescents while empowering them to develop and recognize their value and place in the global community.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Kenney
Principal, Great Falls Middle School

Hillcrest Elementary School

Introduction.

The 2005 school year saw some improvements in restoration of some of the losses of the previous year. We were able to restore a ½ day session of preschool. This doubled our capacity at the preschool level to thirty students from fifteen the previous year. General music instruction was also restored. Students received a thirty minute music period each week from kindergarten through grade 2. Our preschool programs participated in the Early Music Program through the Artspace of Greenfield. Funds from tuition were used to pay for this program. We continued to struggle with class size. We established a combination first-second grade classroom to create first and second grade classrooms that averaged around 18 students. Our kindergartens remained large at 21 and 22 students. Our preschools and kindergartens were awarded a long awaited accreditation from the New England Association for the Education of Young Children. The self study and validation visits were made possible through our kindergarten enrichment grant.

Student Achievement.

This was our second year of implementation of the Reading First grant. We were directed by the Department of Education to change our CORE program. Thus teachers had to learn the Houghton Mifflin Reading Program. We were able to assess student needs through the DIBELS and GRADE tests associated with the program. We also continued to use the Developmental Reading Assessment. For the first time, use of new intervention programs associated with the Reading First grant were added to help students who fell in the at-risk and risk categories. Personnel to implement these programs remained a challenge. It will take additional implementation and a longitudinal view of these students to determine whether these interventions are effective. Included in these interventions were a before and after school tutorial. Funds were identified at the Central Office level to support our summer reading program: Camp Razzle Dazzle Reading. We were able to offer Reading Recovery to our first grade students most in need of an early intervention. With only one Reading Recovery teacher we were able to serve eleven students (three above the 8 limit set by the program). An additional 4 students would have benefited from the program but were unable to be served. Fourteen second grade students were able to receive in-school reading small group work support through the Title I program. The Title I Program also created a new summer reading incentive program for all students in our school. Known as “Passport to Reading” students were given books to read and a parent-child “Assignment” to carry out over the summer months. We continue to use Investigations, Box-It and computational math to provide our students with math learning aligned with the state standards. Teachers review the standards bimonthly and make adjustments as

needed. Assessing student progress beyond the portfolio inventories we use remains an area of growth for us. Science and social science curricula and instruction follow the standards also.

The kindergarten grant curriculum subcommittee worked on analyzing how the Reading First initiative would impact kindergarten classrooms. Members also met to discuss assessments associated with the grant as well as agreeing to keep student portfolio data as part of the assessment repertoire.

Teachers continued to implement content related to the Massachusetts State Frameworks in English Language Arts, Science, Social Science and Mathematics. Every other month, teachers met in grade level meetings to review and revise (as needed) curriculum content. These curricula are published bi-monthly for parents and staff alike.

We continued to offer a program for students with severe behavioral challenges in kindergarten through grade 2. For our preschool students with autism, working closely with an autism consultant, and having a team approach to intervention. These students made observable gains in social and academic areas over the school year.

We were able to offer students after-school programs throughout the school year although finding leaders for these groups was a challenge. We had a partnership with Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library, Mad Science, local potter/ ceramist, Ruth O'Mara, tutorials for math and reading with our staff and other offerings. Our Wednesday Friends program of cross-grade learning experiences for our students continued into its eleventh year. Friends meet throughout the year to engage in activities together which study our school wide theme. We focused on Family as our theme in anticipation of the work we would do through our Massachusetts Cultural Council grant. This grant would enable our students to work with Muralist David Fichter to design and then paint murals to be installed along a new pathway between the Sheffield and Hillcrest schools. Using the family theme, our students painted family members and members of their school family as well. The mural will be installed in fall 2005. A second mural is scheduled for creation in spring 2006. The theme will be local habitats. In this innovative way, all students have an arts education experience with benefit to the community.

Staff Development.

Our teachers embarked on a journey with the Whole Faculty Study Group model as a means of teacher driven staff development. The groups each had a literacy focus that was related to students needs in reading skills acquisition. At the end of the school year, teachers received training in Looking at Student Work protocols made possible through Title I funds. These protocols will help focus the work of their study groups in the following year. Our paraprofessionals participated in training for the Para Pro test and most are now highly qualified. Our teaching staff reviewed state and federal criteria for highly qualified teachers and re licensure guidelines in anticipation of requirements for NCLG January 2006. Both a preschool and kindergarten teacher were able to attend the Early Learning conference in November, funded through the kindergarten grant. The kindergarten grant

brought together preschool kindergarten and first grade teachers district wide to discuss curriculum, sharing information between grade levels at transition points and how to best prepare parents for transitions between preschool and kindergarten and kindergarten and first grades.

School Climate.

Our school climate and student social growth remains at the forefront of our work here. This year, we worked with Ruth Charney from the Northeast Foundation for Children to revisit classroom practices related to the Responsive Classroom. Ruth also attended meetings of the School Council. The Council undertook the revision of the school-wide behavior and discipline policy. The goal was to create a policy which was in keeping with the basic guidelines of the Responsive Classroom. The new plan was adopted by the council and approved by the staff and ready for the new parent handbook printed for Fall 2005. Several staff members signed up for Responsive Classroom training for summer 2005. Our goals for the 2006 school year include implementation of the new school climate plan and creation of a school constitution for school wide rules.

Family programs continued with good success. We held our open houses, one for all students in the fall and another for kindergarten students in the spring. They were both well attended as is the case with families with young children in their first years of school. Various groups worked together to plan some event for families each month. These groups included Title I program, the Community Partnership for Children, the Kindergarten Enrichment Grant, The PTO and the faculty of the Hillcrest School.

Volunteers remain evident throughout the school: we continued to have Foster grandparents and parent and community volunteers. We also launched a new effort to form a partnership with the Franklin County Technical School early childhood program. We became their "shop site" for students interested in a career in early childhood. Students were placed in classrooms preschool through grade two and supervised by their teacher, Linda Tulenko. In addition, we established a student "Volunteer Corps". These second grade students earned their volunteer status by being exemplary students. They met monthly with the principal and were assigned volunteer jobs such as reading to younger peers and shelving books in the school library. All volunteers were honored at a special All School Meeting in the spring.

All School Meeting continued to be a vehicle for building a sense of community among the student body. We sang many songs, read student poetry, celebrated birthdays, shared news and honored special guests or achievements.

Our PTO worked hard to raise important funds to support our writing box program, our mural project and musician and storyteller Laurie Davidson. The PTO remained a vital partner for our school to fund important initiatives in still strained economic times.

A Final word.

Once again, it is important to thank each and every teacher, specialist and para

teacher here at the Hillcrest Elementary School for their unfailing dedication to helping each child fulfill their potential. Their generosity of time and energy towards our families, our students and each other made our school year a strong and successful one.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine P. Jutres, EdD
Principal, Hillcrest Elementary School

Montague Center School

The Montague Center School serves children from grades Kindergarten through Grade 3. Children attending the school come from each of the five villages of the town. Student enrollment for the FY05 school year was 81 students. There were a total of twenty-one staff members that included professional and paraprofessional staff, part-time therapists, maintenance workers, and administrative personnel.

The new year

The most profound change at the school was the addition of Merrilee Ironside as a kindergarten teacher. This demonstrated the growing strength of the school's finances and the increasing number of students. Throughout the year, we were able to continue with a number of exciting projects. A highlight was the on-going study of the Sawmill River. As in the past two years, we worked on a multi-disciplinary project that utilized the Environment as an Integrated Context for Learning (EIC) approach and collaborated with the staff from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. This project engaged all the students of the school and included walking field trips to the river and the local pond, as well as research projects about the animals and plant life, and the history of the town of Montague. A community service project by the third grade lead to the installation of identification signs on the bridges that cross the river. This was the result of a letter requesting action that was sent to the town officials. This project culminated in an all-school trip in June on the Quinnetucket II for a guided tour of the Connecticut River.

The second area of continued growth was in our arts program. We were fortunate to bring Nan Sadoski back to Montague Center as the music teacher. Nan's enthusiasm and vision helped create an all-school performance of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff". Parental efforts and grant opportunities allowed us to hire an artist-in-residence in visual arts. Art teacher Anne Larsen was brought into the school on a weekly basis to provide art classes for all of the students. Anne's hard work inspired students and she was a great help in painting the backdrop for the all-student performance. Storyteller Eshu Bumpus spent two days at the school working with each class, teaching the art and craft of storytelling.

Staff development

Professional development activities included a continuation of the Teaching

American History project. Coordinated through the Old Deerfield museum, this is a federally funded project that provides mentoring of teachers by university historians, and research opportunities for teachers to develop curriculum that is aligned with the state frameworks. There was also on-going professional development work with the Hitchcock Center in support of the River project. Colleen Kelly, a naturalist at the Hitchcock Center, met with teachers on a regular basis to plan activities and increase staff knowledge and awareness of the ecosystem. Colleen also helped to lead field trips and model lessons in environmental education.

The school was awarded a FOCUS grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education. This grant provided for additional staff training to increase skills in implementing an early literacy assessment (DIBEL) and evaluate the scores. This information will be used to help teachers adjust instruction to meet the identified needs of the students.

There were additional trainings. 1) The new Houghton-Mifflin reading series. Staff learned about the scope and sequence of the series and how to integrate the many different sections of the program into the existing curriculum. 2) Implementation of the Responsive Classroom. This approach promotes a humanistic and democratic system of developing a positive school culture. In all, the staff development days were times well spent as teachers expanded their skills in creating improved social and academic programs. Staff also used the half-day inservices to review and analyze the MCAS scores in Grade 3.

Parent involvement

Parental involvement and support remained an integral part of the daily activities and special events at the school. Traditional school events were coordinated efforts between the parent group and the staff and students. These events and activities included the Halloween festival, book fair, cookie exchange, read-a-thon, skating party, fishing derby, field day and the year-end gathering for the community picnic and pie auction. Parent volunteers also helped out on field trips which included visits to the Shea Theater, Discovery Center in Turners Falls, Sturbridge Village, Look Park, Magic Wings Butterfly Garden, the Indian House in Old Deerfield and the aforementioned voyage on the Quinnetucket.

Accomplishments for the 2004-2005 school year:

- 1 Continuation of the Sawmill River project in collaboration with the Hitchcock Center. Initiated the contact with the Selectboard which lead to the installation of signs that identified the Sawmill River. Wrote a book, based on student research, about the history of the Town of Montague.
- 2 Reinstated the music program, which lead to the all-school performance of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff".
- 3 Successfully initiated the electronic report card system. This enabled staff to link the student's efforts with the state's curriculum frameworks.

- 4 The parent group successfully raised the required funds to continue the artist-in-residence program on a weekly basis.
- 5 Continued an in-depth analysis of MCAS results and data.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Mahler
Principal, Montague Center School

Sheffield Elementary School

The Sheffield Elementary School serves all of the Montague villages for children attending grades 4 through 6. Sheffield also serves Grade 3 students from Montague City, Turners Falls, Millers Falls, and Lake Pleasant. For the 2004-2005 school year, student enrollment was 265 with 3 grade 3 classrooms, 4 grade 4 classrooms, 4 grade 5 classrooms and 4 grade 6 classrooms. This year Sheffield maintained small class size (20 or less) by assigning Title I teachers to regular classroom positions as a strategic plan to address achievement, particularly in reading and math. We were able to “add back” 1.5 reading teachers under Title I and hope to return two more reading teachers in future budget years. Instruction is provided in Special Education, Physical Education (1/2 hr per week), and Instrumental Music (1/2 hr per week); counseling from guidance and school adjustment counselors; additional therapies on an “as needed basis” from PT/OT and Speech and Language professionals; and language support from ELL staff who work throughout the district. We are also hopeful that we will be able to return Art instruction to our school in the near future.

Accomplishments for the 2004-05 school year include the following:

- 1 Continued professional development for instruction in reading and math with grade three involvement in the district's Reading First grant initiative and purchase of grade 4-6 Houghton-Mifflin Reading Program for continuous and consistent approach to Reading in grades K-6 beginning in the Fall of 2005.
- 2 The Sheffield PTO continued to provide enormous financial and volunteer assistance to the school for basic classroom supplies, funding for art and music and library programs at school and on-going maintenance of the playground equipment. The PTO also coordinated the “First Day of School” Program with a school picnic to meet new parents and students before school began.
- 3 The Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Sheffield PTO provided grant funding for an artist-in-residence in the spring. David Fichter, renowned muralist from Cambridge, MA worked with students at both Hillcrest and Sheffield Schools to create a mural parkway between the two schools that will serve as a connector between the two schools and a town park for the community. The pathway is to be installed in fall 2005 with additional mural projects planned for downtown Turners Falls in the spring of 2006.
- 4 Sheffield continued to host a number of graduate school student teachers in classrooms in both the fall and spring semesters. The University of Massachusetts School of Education – Bridges to the Future Program now

- provides these students to us on a regular basis.
- 5 Our 21st Century Full Day program served nearly 90 children daily between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. with homework help and enrichment activity. There is one more year for this five-year state grant and we have been planning with community agencies ways to collaborate to extend this invaluable programming in the community beyond the life of the grant. Local fundraising for the program has been significantly supported by the Montage Elks and local businesses.
 - 6 We held two Library Book Fairs to increase reading throughout the school and at home and planned a significant summer reading program in conjunction with the 21st century summer program and the local libraries for summer 2005.
 - 7 We worked with many community agencies and the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership to increase integration and coordination of social services at Sheffield and helped plan a number of community events for parents, including the Bill Cosby conversation at Turners Falls High School.
 - 8 Creation of school-wide rules and discipline plan as indicated in our School Improvement Plan.

Goals and Objectives/Planned Improvements for 2005-06 as outlined in our School Improvement Plan:

1. Continued integration of Responsive Classroom approach in school-wide discipline and classroom management to create a more consistent environment for learning and achievement.
2. Continuation of parent initiatives for greater parent involvement, including:
Designated room parents from each classroom to assist classroom and represent classroom at PTO
Designated parent library volunteers from each classroom
Parent generation and participation in classroom and school-wide events
Increase in percentage of parents attending parent conferences (93% last year)
Creation of Family Center on first floor, accessible to all parents
3. Improved implementation of school-wide mediation program
20 hr/week Grant Funded Mediation Coordinator in place
Student mediators have completed summer training
Appropriate student/staff training and promotion of awareness and implementation among staff and students
Sharing of mediation success (Peacekeepers Conference)
Planning for coming year

4. Continued use of the Peace Room Process for appropriate student behavior and enhanced academic engagement
Addition of Interventionist with overlap to programming occurring 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Continued documentation and assessment of Peace Room process implementation by all staff

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFIGURATION

- 1 6th Grade Language-Based inclusive classroom model with shared special education teacher, regular classroom teacher and full-time parateacher.
- 2 Two 5th grade language-based classrooms with in class support from one special education teacher and full-time parateachers in each classroom.
- 3 Two 4th grade classrooms based on the 5th grade model.
- 4 One 4th grade inclusive classroom supported with a full-time parateacher and support from the 3rd-4th grade special education teacher. The study group, staff and principal recommendation for another full-time special education teacher was not deemed possible for budgetary reasons by the special education department.

MATH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Outline grade level frameworks that are aligned with MCAS and grade-level benchmarks.
- 2 Advocate for district-wide alignment – Math curriculum adoption K-8 for 2006-7 implementation or following year
- 3 Provide support materials

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Implementation of Whole Faculty Study Group Model to support implementation of new Houghton-Mifflin Reading Program and improvement in English-Language Arts MCAS scores
- 2 Advocate for district curriculum coordinator position

BUDGET GOALS

- 1 address on-going funding deficiencies and lack of personnel
- 2 create dialogue with district regarding avenues for inclusion in the budgetary process at the school level to include:
- 3 reinstatement of lost teaching positions
- 4 restoration of Title I supplementary staff
- 5 restoration of art staff
- 6 increase PE time for students
- 7 provision of current and appropriate teaching materials and materials appropriate for at-risk students
- 8 Create and sustain appropriate venues for these discussions at Sheffield, with the School Community Council and between Sheffield and central administration and school committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Chip Wood
Principal, Sheffield Elementary School

Turners Falls High School

Turners Falls High School is a four-year, comprehensive high school accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. For the 2004-2005 school year, 33 teachers, seven paraprofessionals, and nine support staff, served the needs of 353 students. The Turners Falls High School has a modified schedule of 4x4 blocks (The school day is made up of 4 periods of 90 minutes per semester, which allows for 8 classes per year.) Our graduates for the class of 2005 have advised us of their plans after graduation and they include:

- 1 39% attending four-year colleges and universities
- 2 34% attending Greenfield Community College
- 3 3% attending other two-year public colleges
- 4 5% went on to technical/vocational schools.
- 5 14% entered the work force directly after high school graduation
- 6 5% joined the military.

Students of Turners Falls High School are required to earn one hundred forty (140) credits to graduate. In addition to course offerings in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, Turners Falls High School offers diverse elective courses including three world languages (Latin, Spanish, and French), business education, technology education (graphic arts, **Computer Aided Design**, **Wood Shop Manufacturing**, and video production), health education, physical education grades 9-12, computer information, art, music, and theater arts. The school curriculum supports **Advanced Placement** courses that offer students the opportunity to receive college credit for courses. When a student scores a 3, 4 or 5 on an **AP** test, colleges award college credit, which can save parents tuition costs. Turners Falls High School offers **AP** courses in calculus, literature and composition, US History, and psychology. Through an Independent Study, students with administrative approval and the guidance of a faculty member, may contract to study subjects not currently offered in our course of study. Opportunities are available for students to take courses outside of Turners Falls High School, through the Dual Enrollment Program. Qualified students are able to participate in courses at Greenfield Community College, state colleges, or in some cases the UMASS system. Recognizing the importance of providing students with insight into the world of work, the Career Center coordinates the Tech Prep program and student career internships. Many students take advantage of the opportunity for hands-on learning: 57 students enrolled in the Tech Prep program, 23 students worked in the community at various businesses, under the School-to-Work program, and 62 students provided assistance as interns within the Turners Falls High School & Great

Falls Middle School.

Turners Falls High School has a tradition of maintaining a commitment to excellence, a caring atmosphere promoted by students and staff, and a sense of community. This tradition was exhibited in several events through out the year. Student Council & National Honor society students worked on a variety of individual projects to improve school community relationships.

The Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School complex is a "Green School". This is a term that is given to schools or buildings that are designed to be environmentally sensitive, energy efficient and healthy for their occupants. Thanks to the generosity from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust in supporting the renovations to our building, "Green School" features were incorporated into the facility. Students are also able to learn about the "Green School" features from curriculum that has been developed by teachers and staff in connection with the MTCRET. Additional "Green School" information is available at the high school main office. The 2005 graduation was held outside on the football field. The botanicals class provided decorations for the event and constructed the graduation arch. The Turners Falls High School administration and staff celebrated with the students, parents and family the event with the class of 2005. Student accomplishments for the 2004-2005 school year included the following: Students continued to participate and excel in a wide variety of athletics: in the fall, cross-country, football, volleyball, and field hockey; in the winter, basketball, swimming and ice hockey (co-op team); and in the spring, softball, baseball, tennis, golf, and track.

The following athletic teams achieved special recognition:

- 1 Girls' Softball team won the Western Massachusetts Championship **and won their second** Massachusetts State Championship
- 2 Girls' Tennis Team took part in the Western Massachusetts Tournament
- 3 Girls' Swim Team participated in the Western Massachusetts Championship
- 4 Individuals represented Turners Falls High School in the Western Massachusetts Track Tournament
- 5 Cross Country Team sent individuals to the Western Massachusetts Championship

Students also participated in a variety of academic, fine arts and club activities. The band and chorus continued to entertain and win awards in a variety of competitions. The TFHS Band participated in the Big E Parade and celebration for the State Fair. Again the band marched in the Boosters Day Parade, the Memorial Day Parade, the Rag Shag Parade and the Franklin County Fair Parade. The Students performed in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Worcester MA and the Harvest Parade in Orange MA and won awards for their performance. The band also traveled to the King Dominion Band Program, in Richmond, VA, where the concert band, Jazz band and chorus took first in their division.

The Jazz Band scored the highest of over 20 schools in our division and received a trophy for their endeavors.

Activities such as the prom, Booster Day activities, and Prom Fashion show provided opportunities for students to plan, organize, and finance events, with the support of local businesses and community friends. Booster Week homecoming and spirit week activities were a success with all four classes constructing floats and marching in a parade. Dances, rallies, and games were highlighted. The Thanksgiving bonfire, prior to the Thanksgiving Day football game, was organized by students from the Technology classes and Mr. Jobst, was a highlight of the fall season. In March, more than 70+ students from Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School participated in the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*.

Demonstrating their commitment to professional development, all staff participated in a variety of workshops related to the NEASC accreditation recommendations, MCAS skills and assessment, and Whole Faculty Study Groups to examine student work and change classroom practices. The Turners Falls High School staff is dedicated to meeting the needs of diversified learners, and developing curriculum and strategies to improve student learning and MCAS scores.

Turners Falls High School is grateful for the communities' support of the many activities, athletic events, fundraisers, concerts, musical productions, and for the help of the many volunteers who assist the school on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Morrill
Principal, Turners Falls High School

District Special Education/Pupil Services

During the 2004-2005 school year, the Gill-Montague Regional School District's Special Education/Student Services Department provided a vast array of services to approximately 290 special education students, 85 accommodation/504 students, 30 English Language Learners, and 20 home schooled students. Most services were provided in the district's six public schools. These services included, but were not limited to, education assistance and remediation consistent with the established regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Massachusetts Department of Education policies for educating English Language Learners, Special Needs students, and students on Accommodation Plans (504). Direct services included the following: speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, therapy for hearing impaired students, vision/mobility therapy, counseling, testing, adaptive physical education, community based vocational coaching, and behavior management. The district also funded day and residential special education programs for approximately 35 eligible students.

Special education students attending programs in the district were provided access to each school's curriculum. The least restrictive placement with free and appro-

appropriate educational services, supported by IDEA and considered best practice, provided the overarching goal for each program. With inclusion as the best practice model at the elementary and middle school levels, "pull-out" time is used when necessary. There was ongoing decision making at annual review meetings, focusing on meeting the program needs of eligible students. Agreements between parents and the school regarding programming were made in approximately 350 TEAM meetings. There were no hearings or mediations needed as any conflicts were resolved in additional meetings with families. There were no independent evaluations requested. Staff efforts resulted in success in the district's programs. Assistance from teachers, administrators, support staff, paraprofessionals, and consultants contributed to the gains made in well-run programs.

An existing program from past years, the Helping Us Grow Safely (HUGS) program located at the Hillcrest Elementary School which is dedicated to providing emotional/social support to identified students, served as a model to begin the process of creating an in-district program serving students in grades K-9 with behavioral disorders or emotional disabilities. Progress made in this type of program allows for students to transition into mainstream classes. The Old Mill Program will begin in the 2005-2006 academic year with three classrooms divided by grade/age and will be run in cooperation with School Based Services from Holyoke. The Life Skills program at GFMS and TFHS promotes access of developmentally delayed students to the school's general curriculum while providing them with intensive instruction in skills that will allow them to live full lives as independently as possible. Finally, the Autism Program at Gill Elementary School offers highly specialized instruction in "concert" with a variety of related services to a small group of our most disabled Autistic students. Housing this program within the smaller community of the Gill Elementary School allows the community to support the program in as full a way as possible and gives these special students a consistent and familiar environment for their elementary education years.

Special Education services face significant financial challenges in providing mandated programming with insufficient funding provided by the state or federal governments. Grants have been reduced or eliminated and those that have increased slightly are not keeping pace with cost of living increases in salaries or services. The budget for the out-of-district tuitions continues to climb while the DOE Circuit Breaker reimbursement program stays static at a reimbursement level of 72%. Homeless transportation, Elementary Specialized Transportation, and Secondary Specialized Transportation line items continue to be high with no reimbursement from the state. However, with the continued development of in-district programs and services we will reduce the need for "outside" programs. In addition, Special Education Directors from the region are working to increase their level of collaboration in an effort to provide specialized programs for other local districts at a reasonable cost.

Health Services

Gill-Montague Regional School District employed four elementary and one secondary nurse for the 2004-2005 school year. All schools had a full-time nurse. During the 2004-2005 school year, the district collaborated with the East Long-

meadow School System, sharing content of East Longmeadow's Health Improvement Grant. This collaboration allowed nurses to receive updated screening equipment.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laurie Farkas
 Director of Special Education and Pupil Services

Grants

The Gill-Montague Regional School District funds both programs and personnel with funds received from private organizations and from state and federal agencies. These grants and reimbursements may cover all or some portion of the cost of a wide variety of school programs. All of the programs supported through these grants provide valuable services to students and staff. Literally every student in the district benefits to some degree from these grants. For the 2004-2005 school year we received about the same amount in grant funds as the year before. The chart below shows what was received.

GRANT CODE #	GRANT TITLE	AMOUNT*
1	MCC Arts Grant	\$18,000.00
2	SCORE Grant	\$20,000.00
3	COPS in Schools	\$41,500.00
4	Responsive Classroom (Northeast Foundation)	\$20,000.00
5	DSS Incentive Grant for Social Services	\$10,000.00
140	Improving Educator Quality	\$91,000.00
160	Enhanced Educational Technology	\$12,356.00
240	SPED Allocation	\$372,978.00
262	SPED Early Childhood Allocation	\$20,476.00
274	SPED Program Improvement	\$6,730.00
302	Title VI: Innovative Educational Program Strategies	\$10,252.00
305	Title I: Remedial Education Services	\$469,747.00
313	Emergency Immigration Act	\$25,000.00
331	Safe & Drug Free Schools	\$11,415.00
391	Community Partnerships for Children	\$173,521.00
632	Academic Support Services	\$15,000.00
647	21 st Century After School Program	\$34,000.00
701	Full Day K: K Enhancement Program	\$51,910.00
728	Reading First	\$215,900.00
		\$ 1,520,285.00
e-rate	SLD Telecommunications Reimbursement	\$20,702.00
		\$1,540,987.00

Technology

The following are highlights of accomplishments in the 2004-2005 school year in the area of technology:

- 1 Additional computer hardware was set up and put to use in the middle and high schools as part of the building project.
- 2 We refined use of the Novell operating system on the servers of our computer network.
- 3 An e-rate reimbursement at the 68% level was received for Internet & telecommunications services.
- 4 New record keeping software was used to generate report cards saving upwards of \$1000 per year.
- 5 We continued to maximize our purchasing power for software as part of the Technology Education Collaborative operated by GCC.
- 6 We participated in the development of specifications for a regional and statewide data warehouse.
- 7 We trained designated staff in the use of the new TV studio in the middle/high school building.
- 8 We trained designated staff in the use of the foreign language lab in the middle/high school building.
- 9 The District Technology Committee completed its update of the district's Five Year Technology Plan.

Through the middle/high school building project we were able to replace the computer systems in those schools. We have spent a good deal of time setting up the new equipment and getting it all to work properly. Any useable hardware from the middle/high school building was moved to our elementary schools to replace and expand on what was available there.

We continue to do our best to comply with the state's technology benchmarks and to take advantage of the ever-increasing educational possibilities presented by technology. Every effort will be made to fund technology needs with money from grants and e-rate reimbursements.

Respectfully submitted,
 Martin Espinola, Director of Grants and Technology

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget (Positive/Negative)
Revenues and Other Sources:				
Assessments to member towns	\$7,072,761	\$7,072,761	\$6,115,001	\$(957,760)
Tuition	408,000	340,000	336,851	(3,149)
Intergovernmental	6,752,973	6,418,675	6,504,479	85,804
Investment income	5,000	55,000	102,819	47,819
Miscellaneous	0	104,000	127,082	23,082
Other Sources	200,000	276,000	276,000	0
Transfers in	35,000	35,000	33,019	(1,981)
Total Revenues and Other Sources	14,473,734	14,301,436	13,495,251	(806,185)
Expenditures and Other Uses:				
Administration and benefits	557,072	552,772	525,952	26,820
Instruction	6,542,998	5,333,338	5,271,441	61,897
Other School Services	1,009,568	507,130	489,350	17,780
Operation and maintenance	1,042,367	1,142,133	1,120,976	21,157
Fixed charges	2,595,029	2,499,107	2,451,487	47,620
Debt Service	721,054	719,354	718,800	754
Special education	995,550	3,073,258	3,026,292	46,966
School choice/charter	1,010,096	474,144	409,590	64,554
Transfer out	0	0	39	(39)
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	14,473,734	14,301,436	14,013,927	287,509
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	0	0	(518,676)	(518,676)

Gill-Montague Regional School District
 Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues and Other Sources, and Expenditures
 and Other Uses – Budget and Actual For the Year Ended June 30, 2005

Contributors to the Annual Report
Sue M. Gee, Superintendent of Schools
Lynn Bassett, Director of Business and Operations
Martin Espinola, Director of Technology and Grants
Laurie Farkas, Director of Special Education and Student Services
Christine Jutres, Principal, Hillcrest Elementary School
Jeffrey Kenney, Principal, Great Falls Middle School
Robert Mahler, Principal, Gill Elementary School
Robert Mahler, Principal, Montague Center School
Robert Morrill, Principal, Turners Falls High School
Chip Wood, Principal, Sheffield Elementary School
Taffy Bassett-Fox, Assistant to the Superintendent



Unique “Perspective” of the Gill Town Hall through the eyes of Town Clerk and Assessors’ Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo.



ESTABLISHED September 28, 1793

COMMITTEE AND BOARDS SCHEDULE

Selectboard Administrative Assistant Telephone 413-863-9347	Alternate Mondays Monday ~ Fridays	5:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors Assessors Clerk Telephone 413-863-0138	Wednesday Monday ~ Thursday	7 – 8:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Board of Health	2 nd & 4 th Mondays	5:00 p.m.
Cemetery Commission	2 nd Thursday (Recess from Dec-Mar)	6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging Telephone (413) 863-9357	1 st Tuesday	1:00 p.m. @ TF Senior Ctr.
Conservation Commission	1 st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	As Posted	7:00 p.m.
Fire Department Telephone 413-863-8955	Thursdays	7:00 p.m. @ Fire Station
FC Tech School District Telephone 413-863-9561	2 nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m. @ Tech School
GM School District Telephone 413-863-9324	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday	7:00 p.m. @ Sheffield Elementary
Historical Commission	3 rd Tuesday	6:15 p.m. @ Riverside Municipal
Planning Board	2 nd Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Tax Collector Telephone 413-863-2105	Tuesdays -Thursdays Wednesday evenings	9:30 a. m. – 4 p.m. 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Town Clerk Telephone 413-863-8103	Monday - Thursday Wednesday evenings Other Times Available by Appointment	1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Recreation Commission	2 nd Friday	6:30 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT TOWN HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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Unless otherwise noted
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Email: administrator@gillmass.org