

ANNUAL REPORT  
of  
Officers and Committees



2007

Table of Contents

Federal, State, and County Officials..... 4

Elected Town Officials..... 4

Appointments by Selectmen..... 5

Appointments by Board of Health..... 10

Appointments by Moderator..... 10

Other Staff and Volunteers..... 11

Vital Statistics..... 13

Selectboard..... 16

Board of Assessors..... 19

Cemetery Commission..... 21

Gill-Montague Regional School District..... 22

Slate Memorial Library..... 45

Cable Advisory Committee..... 46

Conservation Commission..... 46

Council on Aging..... 48

Cultural Council..... 51

Fire Department..... 52

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program..... 55

Highway Department..... 60

Historical Commission..... 62

Memorial Committee..... 63

Planning Board..... 64

Police Department..... 65

Animal Control Officer..... 72

Veterans’ Services..... 73

## Table of Contents

Agricultural Commission.....	74
Franklin County Technical School District.....	74
Personnel Committee.....	76
Trust Funds.....	79
Combined Balance Sheet.....	82
Treasurer.....	86
General Fund Revenue.....	87
General Fund Expense.....	90
Other Fund Expense.....	96
Tax Collector.....	98
Town Clerk.....	103
Town Meeting Minutes and Election Results.....	104

## FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	Edward M. Kennedy John F. Kerry
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	John W. Olver
<b>Governor</b>	Deval Patrick
<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>	Tim Murray
<b>State Senator</b>	Stanley C. Rosenberg
<b>State Representative</b>	Christopher J. Donelan
<b>Franklin Regional Council of Governments Executive Committee</b>	Ann H. Banash, Chair, Bill Perlman, Vice Chair Sam Lovejoy, Secretary Christine Forgey John Paciorek

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## ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Board of Selectmen*</b>	Ann H. Banash	2008
	Leland E. Stevens, Chair	2009
	Nancy A. Griswold	2010
<b>Board of Assessors</b>	Gregory Snedeker, Chair	2008
	Nancy A. Griswold	2009
	Peter Conway	2010
<b>Board of Health</b>	Edward W. Galipault, Jr.	2008
	Randy P. Crochier, Secretary	2009
	Douglas A. Edson, Chair	2010
<b>Cemetery Commission</b>	Carrie R. Stevens	2008
	Patricia Haigis	2009
	Beverly L. Demars	2010
<b>Constables</b>	Fred O. Chase, II	2008
	Fred O. Chase, III	2008
	Craig D. Gaudry	2008

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Field Drivers</b>	Edward J. Golembeski	2008
	Clifford C. Hatch	2008
<b>Gill-Montague Regional School Committee</b>	Theodore Castro-Santos	2008
	Valeria Smith	2009
	Sandra Brown	2010
<b>Library Trustees</b>	Ann C. Perry	2008
	Ellen A. Johnson, Chair	2009
	Elisabeth Greenough	2010
<b>Moderator</b>	Raymond F. Steele	2009
<b>Tax Collector</b>	Veronica A. LaChance	2008
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2009
<b>Treasurer</b>	Veronica A. LaChance	2010
<b>Tree Warden</b>	Ernest M. Hastings	2009

\*Selectmen also serve as Sewer Commissioners; Measurers of Wood, Bark & Surveyors of Lumber; and Fence Viewers.

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## APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>911 Coordinator</b>	Joseph Elliott, Jr.	
<b>Accountant</b>	Joyce Muka, Accounting Program Franklin Regional Council of Governments	
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Debra A. Roussel (1/1—6/22)	
	Doreen Stevens (6/23—7/22)	
	Tracy Rogers (7/23—)	

## APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator</b>	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	Edward Ambo, Jr.	
<b>Board of Registrars</b>	Allan Adie, Sr.	2008
	Kathleen Augustine	2009
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2009
	Richard Peller	2010
<b>Building Committee</b>	Roger Augustine	
	Richard French	
	Ernest Hastings	
	Philip Maddern, Chair	
	Edward Pogoda	
<b>Cable Advisory Committee</b>	Richard James	
	Donald Kruger (1/1—10/17)	
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Secretary	
	Leland E. Stevens, Chair	
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	Edward Pogoda	2008
	Ted Castro-Santos	2009
	Kenneth Sprankle	2009
	Keith Lilly	2010
	Anthony Mathews, Chair	2010
<b>Council on Aging</b>	Beverly L. Demars, Chair	2008
	Audrey Ambo	2008
	James Greenleaf	2009
	Joseph Naida	2009
	Renee Jenkins	2010
<b>Cultural Council</b>	Kathleen Augustine	2008
	Veronica A. LaChance	2009

## APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Cultural Council (Cont'd)</b>	Steve Damon	2010
	Lynn Nichols	2010
	Emily Samuels	2010
	Elizabeth Gardner	2011
	Elisabeth Greenough	2011
	Marilyn Odeh	2011
<b>Election Workers</b>	Angelina Adie	
	Helen Chappell	
	Barbara Elliot	
	James Greenleaf	
	Pamela Hubert	
	Renee Jenkins	
	Geraldine Johnson	
	Nancy Krejmas	
	Donald LaChance	
	Raymond Moore	
	Joseph Naida	
	Lorri Parody	
	Dorothy Petrin	
Edith Schechterle		
John Schechterle		
<b>Emergency Manager</b>	Gene Beaubien	
<b>Fire Chief</b>	Gene Beaubien	
<b>Fire Dept. Board of Engineers</b>	Gene Beaubien	2008
	Donald Crouse, Jr.	2008
	Jason Edson	2008
	Stuart Elliott	2008
	Christopher Goodhind	2008
	Scott Goodhind	2008
	Kyle LaPointe	2008
	Stephen McConley, Jr.	2008
	Gary Parzych	2008

## APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Fire Dept. Board of Engineers (Cont'd)</b>	Steve Peters	2008
	Kenneth Sears	2008
<b>Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Representative</b>	Debra A. Roussel (1/1–6/22)	
	Tracy A. Rogers (7/23–)	2008
<b>Inspector of Buildings</b>	James Hawkins	
<b>Local Building Insp.</b>	James Cerone	
<b>Electrical Insp.</b>	James Slowinski	
<b>Plumbing/Gas Insp.</b>	Andrew French	
<b>Franklin County Solid Waste Management District</b>	Arthur Cohen	
<b>Franklin Regional Transit Authority</b>	James Poulsen	
<b>Fred W. Wells Trust</b>	Frank J. Cutting	
<b>Hazardous Waste Coordinator</b>	Douglas Edson	
<b>Highway Superintendent</b>	Mitchell LaClaire, Jr.	
<b>Historical Commission</b>	Cristin Carpenter, Chair	2008
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2008
	Robert Perry	2009
	Beverly L. Demars	2010
	Stuart Elliott	2010
	Richard French	2010
	Pamela Shoemaker	2010



## APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Memorial Committee</b>	Gary Bourbeau	2008
	Chester Kuzontkoski	2008
	Douglas Smith, Chair	2008
	Elaine Smith	2008
<b>Planning Board</b>	Thomas Storrow	2009
	Richard French	2010
	John Duda	2011
	Shirley Flagg	2011
	Douglas Smith, Chair	2011
<b>Police Department</b>	David W. Hastings, Chief	
	Christopher Redmond, Sergeant	
	Melinda Shearer, Matron	
	Jason Bassett, Officer	
	Shaun Coughlin, Officer	
	James Deery, Officer	
	Nicole Fiske, Officer	
	Robert Hunter, Officer	
	John Perrault, Officer	
	Adam Sokoloski, Officer	
Scott M. Waldron, Officer		
<b>Right to Know</b>	Debra A. Roussel (1/1—6/22)	
	Tracy A. Rogers (7/23—)	
<b>Town Counsel</b>	Donna MacNicol of MacNicol & Tombs, LLC	
<b>Veterans' Agent</b>	Leo Parent	
<b>Veterans' District</b>	Patricia Haigis	2009
<b>Veterans' Grave Officer</b>	William Huber	
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	Lawrence Underwood	2008
	William Burnham	2009
	Suzanne Smiley, Chair	2009

### APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals (Cont'd)</b>	Allen Tupper Brown	2010
	Robert Perry	2010
	Raymond Purington, Alternate	2010

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### APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Animal Inspector</b>	Tari Grimard	
<b>Burial Agent</b>	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	

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### APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Agricultural Commission</b>	Richard French	2009
	Bruce Yukl	2009
	John Duda	2010
	Shirley Flagg	2010
	Bridget Logan	2010
<b>Finance Committee</b>	Alden Booth	2008
	Philip Maddern	2008
	Paul H. Nowill, Chair	2008
	Allen Tupper Brown	2009
	Nancy Griswold (1/1—5/21)	
	Ernest M. Hastings	2009
	James Poulsen	2009
	Edward L. Dolhenty	2010
	Veronica A. LaChance	2010
Joseph Williams	2010	

## APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Franklin County Technical School Committee</b>	Clifford C. Hatch	2010
<b>Gill- Montague Advisory Committee</b>	Vacant	
<b>Personnel Committee</b>	<i>Employee Rep.</i> David W. Hastings, Chair <i>Member-at-large</i> Tom Hodak <i>Member-at-large</i> Kristi Tognarelli <i>Bd. Of Selectmen</i> Ann H. Banash <i>Finance Comm.</i> Joseph Williams <i>Secretary (non-voting)</i> Debra A. Roussel (1/1—6/22) Tracy Rogers (7/23—)	2009  2009 2009 2010 2010
<b>Recreation Committee</b>	John J. Duda, Jr. Nathan G. Duda, Chair Kimberly Malcolm Rose Levasseur Charlene Vaughn	2008 2009 2009 2010 2010

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## OTHER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
<b>Assistant Librarian</b>	Kimber Sprankle
<b>Assistant Town Clerk</b>	Doreen Stevens
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Ellen Hastings

## **OTHER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (*Continued*)**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
<b>Clerical Assistant for the Board of Health, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	Bonnie Welcome
<b>Custodian</b>	James Connelly
<b>Firefighter</b>	Michael Chamberlain Steven Connell Brodie Coughlin Michael Crochier Michael Hastings Brian Lesvesque Paul Marguet Frank Matuszczak Austin McComb Noah Pack Deborah Parker Travis St. Peter Scott Waldron
<b>Highway Foreman</b>	Edward Ambo, Jr.
<b>Highway Mechanic/ Operator</b>	George Emery
<b>Highway Part-Time Help</b>	Ernest M. Hastings
<b>Library Director</b>	Jocelyn Castro-Santos

**2007**  
**GILL VITAL STATISTICS**

**BIRTHS**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Parents</i>
May 3	Amanda Mae LaPointe	Wendy Robin (Melnik) LaPointe Aaron Jay LaPointe
May 10	Charley Ann Cormier	Roxann Doubleday (Doubleday) Cormier David George Cormier
June 25	Anya Grace Buyea	Beth Anne (Dame) Buyea Robert Wayne Buyea
November 18	Kolin Shay Broderick	Tara Ann (Barrett) Broderick Scott Richard Broderick
November 29	Hannah May Riddell	Angela Neda (Swift) Riddell Craig Wayne Riddell



**MARRIAGES**

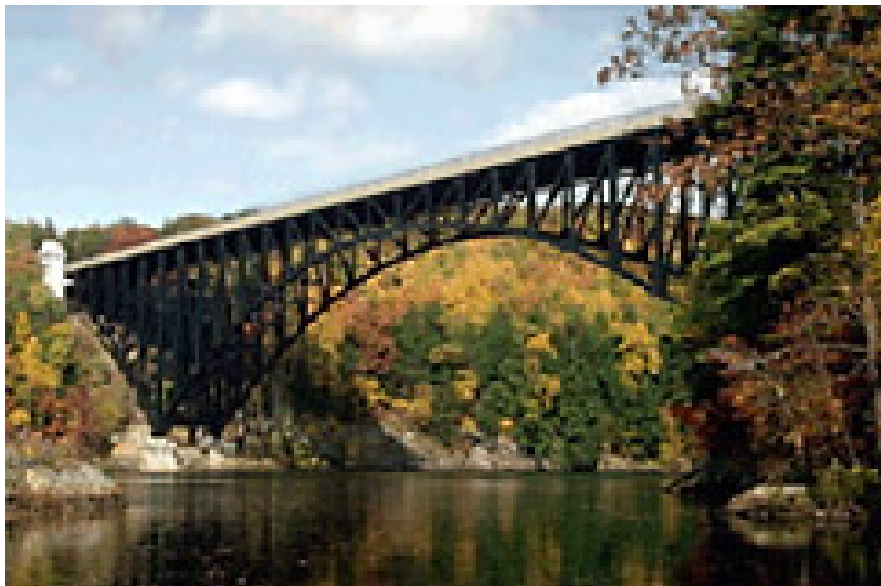
<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
August 3	Jeanette Eaton Martha Elizabeth Neubert
August 25	Nathan Tyler Becklo Denise Lynn Erickson
September 1	James Warwick Hawkins Rachel Jean Rondeau
November 18	Ervin J. Cameron Jacquelyn B. Frost
December 14	Kevin Harold Chickering Daris Lyn Emerson

## DEATHS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
February 23	Julia Ann Dunham
April 1	Harriet A. Tidd
April 25	Edward Eugene Trombley Jr.
May 9	Edward M. Ambo, Sr.
July 22	Lawrence Odell
August 1	Harry Joseph Hubert
August 5	Miriam Luetta Clough
August 19	Steven Ashton Loomer
October 29	Thomas F. Luippold
November 14	John Henry Striebel, Jr.
December 15	Teresa Ann Gregory

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk*

# ANNUAL REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS



*French King Bridge, courtesy of Rob Donner*

## BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

The Board of Selectmen saw a great deal of change in 2007. Long-time selectman Phil Maddern retired from the Board and Nancy Griswold was elected in May to fill his seat. Administrative Assistant Deb Roussel resigned in June to take a position in the town of Hubbardston. Doreen Stevens acted as Interim Administrative Assistant until Tracy Rogers was hired to fill the position permanently. We wish both Deb and Phil the best of luck and thank Doreen for the great job she did filling in over the summer.

In the spring of 2007, the Franklin County Sheriff's office provided the labor to paint the town hall. Gill's own Renaissance Builders donated the use of their equipment for the project. The Board wishes to thank both parties for their efforts in helping to maintain this historic building for the community.

At the Special Town Meeting on May 3, voters approved an amendment to the regional school agreement allowing for intradistrict school choice. This permitted children in grades kindergarten through six to attend the school of their choice within the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

On June 11, town meeting voters approved an omnibus budget excluding a figure for the regional school district, since Gill and Montague were still in negotiation with the school committee on a final number. On July 31 a two-town meeting was held at Turners Falls High School in order to vote on the regional school district amount. That amount was higher than what Gill voters approved previously and was, therefore, placed on the warrant for a future town meeting to approve.

Also during the June 11 meeting, residents showed their support for members of the military by voting to accept a local option statute, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5L, that would allow Massachusetts National Guardsmen or reservists deployed outside the state, or their dependents, up to 180 days after completion of that service to pay their property taxes without interest or penalties.

In the fall the Board researched the possibility of obtaining health insurance for town employees through the newly available state program called the Group Insurance Commission. While the town would have seen savings by implementing the program, it would have meant that employees would forfeit their dental, long-term disability, and life insurance. The Board felt that it could not,



in good conscience, make that change. The issue was tabled for further discussion while the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and other entities explore the possibility of providing those other types of insurance to municipal employees.

Also in the fall, the Board hosted an all-boards meeting to discuss the idea of adopting Chapter 43D of Massachusetts General Law. This new law provides a transparent and efficient process for municipal permitting, guarantees local permitting decisions on priority development sites within 180 days, and increases visibility of a community and its target development site(s). The Planning Department of the FRCOG explained during that meeting that if the town should choose to adopt Chapter 43D, and name the Maria-mante Parcel as a priority development site, there could be a grant available up to \$150,000 to assist the town in not only putting expedited permitting into practice, but also perhaps to pay for further exploration of the archaeological site on the parcel. The boards reacted favorably to the idea and agreed to put it before the voters at the next town meeting.

With the addition of Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) cable broadcasting capabilities built into the contract with Comcast, the Board appointed Tracy Rogers as the PEG Operator. Residents who subscribe to Comcast Cable may now view a bulletin board containing information about local events on Channel 15.

In November, Gill fifth and sixth graders took a field trip to town hall in preparation for the sixth graders' involvement in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's (MMA) annual essay con-



*Gill students, grades 5 & 6, conduct a mock town meeting.  
Back row, l to r: Mark Levasseur, Amanda Williams, Sierra Bodell, Nicole Whit-  
ing, Shelbi Williams. Front row, l to r: Craig Bodell, Julia Paulin.*

test. The students participated in a mock town meeting, complete with a moderator, finance committee representatives, and selectboard representatives. They discussed the issue of replacing the play structure that was recently removed from their playground.

While the sixth graders participated in the MMA's essay contest, the selectboard held its own contest for the fifth graders. The question posed to the fifth graders was: "If you had to describe Gill to someone from Alaska, how would you do that? What do you like best and what could be better?" Selectboard members, the administrative assistant, the town clerk, and the collector-treasurer judged the fifth grade contest and announced three winners: Craig Bodell, Zach Demars, and Spencer Hubert.

In December, the town of Montague generously invited Gill to participate in a Five-Year Planning study it is conducting. The committee is focusing on the task of analyzing the history of spending in the two towns and the regional school district and using this data to project future spending and to frame future discussions around spending. Discussion about hiring a consultant to conduct this analysis began.

We pride ourselves in giving the residents of Gill the best service possible. We welcome you to contact us with your concerns or questions at any time and you're always welcome to attend our bi-weekly meetings to see your town leaders in action.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Leland E. Stevens, Chair*

## **BOARD OF ASSESSORS' REPORT**

The Annual Report of the Gill Board of Assessors is herewith submitted to the citizens of the Town of Gill for the Year 2007.

During the calendar year 2007, Peter Conway and Nancy Griswold were elected to the Board of Assessors. They join Greg Snedeker for a, now full, Board of three.

With the 2006 Town Meeting vote for a complete recollection of data, the project was already underway and continued through 2007. This project, coupled with the triennial revaluation and a conversion of data into a new assessors' software program, created a very dynamic year. Discussion about mailing preliminary tax bills became complicated and impossible because of a budget that was not balanced due to a high request from the Gill Montague Regional School District. Things were further complicated by delays from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue as it reviewed our data.

Finally, on December 17, 2007, we received preliminary certification of our values and impact notices stating the newly assessed values were sent to all Gill landowners. With the state certification of the Town of Gill's figures it was revealed that there was property previously overlooked. This actually eliminated the need for an override election, previously thought to be necessary in order to balance the budget. However, it would still be well into 2008 before a tax rate could be set and actual tax bills could be sent out. All this was very frustrating to everyone.

It is important to note, however, that the status of all property information in the Assessors' Office is more accurate and complete at this time than it would otherwise have been. Going forward it is the conviction of the assessors to keep these records up to date and as accurate as they can. We feel that everything is at a very good starting point for Gill as we move into 2008.

The Board of Assessors continue to have public hours on alternating Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM to answer questions residents may have. The Assessors' Office is open and the clerk is available from 9:30 AM to noon Mondays through Thursdays to answer questions and set up appointments. It is helpful to call ahead to make requests: (413) 863-0138.

*Board of Assessors*

*Gregory Snedeker, Chair  
Peter Conway  
Nancy Griswold*

**Board of Assessors  
Financial Report**

Gross Amount to be Raised	\$ 2,776,423.26
Less Estimated Receipts & Revenues	<u>1,158,315.97</u>
<b>Net to be Raised</b>	<b>\$ 1,618,107.29</b>

**Valuation:**

Real Estate	\$117,230,434.00
Personal Property	<u>2,275,275.00</u>
<b>Total Valuation</b>	<b>\$119,505,709.00</b>

<b>Tax Rate: \$13.54 per \$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,618,107.29</b>
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**Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments**

2006, collected FY2007	\$ 35,397.05
2007, collected FY2007	<u>194,815.39</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 230,212.44</b>

**Motor Vehicle Excise Abatements:**

2006, abated FY2007	\$ 172.58
2007, abated FY2007	<u>3,573.27</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,745.85</b>

**Real Estate Exemptions:**

Section 22 (Veterans)	\$ 5,600.00
Section 42	2,525.21
Section 41C (Over 70)	4,000.00

**Real Estate and Personal Property Abatements**

Chapter 59	<u>30,445.55</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 42,570.76</b>

## CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The mapping of Center Cemetery was completed this year by Roberge & Associates of Greenfield. Each stone is listed with the names of those in the burial lot. A database has been set up for Center and West Gill cemeteries. The Town Hall and Historical Museum also have a copy of the database on their computers.

The erosion problem at Center Cemetery has taken a toll on the cemetery funds. The problem involves a section of stream bank that has eroded and collapsed into the adjacent Dry Brook located at the bottom of the bank. There are fallen trees in the brook that also contribute to the scouring of the bank. This bank is relatively steep in the area of the erosion and threatens the grave sites located in the area. To date, we have spent approximately \$7,800 for surveys and engineering fees for a plan by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to stabilize the bank. The Commissioners and Highway Superintendent met with representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to discuss the plan. Following the meeting, the Highway Dept. felt they could help with most of the work, but on a smaller scale than the engineering plan. Any changes to the presented plan must be approved by the Conservation Commission, DEP and NHESP. The time frame to complete the project is two weeks in July, 2008 because of the presence of protected species, including the Wood Turtle, Longnose Sucker and Midland Clubtail dragonfly. We must hire a NHESP representative to be on hand while the work is conducted. Unfortunately, the cost, using the engineering plan we received, would be over \$50,000.

We have tried to find funding to assist with the stabilization of the bank, but none is available at this time. We will be bringing a special article to the Annual Town Meeting in May 2008 to cover the cost of this project.

The Commissioners voted to raise the price of a burial lot from \$375 to \$400 to stay within the same range as neighboring towns.

There was one burial in Center Cemetery this year.

Since 1974 the town has been very fortunate to have Richard Bassett keep our cemeteries in good condition and take care of burials. Dick retired in the spring. We wish him a happy retirement and thank him for his dedication. Mr. Bassett's employee, Fred

Bidwell, has been hired for the mowing and seasonal clean-up.  
Burials were taken over by Snow & Sons.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gill Cemetery Commissioners*

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
2006 - 2007**

<u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION (May)</u>
Mary Kociela, Chair	2010
Valeria Smith, Vice-Chair	2009
Kristin Boyle	2009
Sandra Brown	2010
Ted Castro-Santos	2008
Linda Kuklewicz	2009
Terry Lapachinski	2008
Mike Langknecht	2008
Joyce Phillips	2010

**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.*

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

1,178 students attended the six schools in the district and 8 students were served in out-of-district special education placements. The enrollment in the previous year was 1,223 students in the six schools and 22 students in out-of-district special education placements.

#### Financial Information

In December of 2006, the process of developing the FY2008 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 has continued in each subsequent year. This committee is made up of representatives of town finance committees, boards 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.

The FY2008 budget went through many challenging discussions, and a District-Wide Town Meeting to approve the budget was held on July 31, 2007. The operation and maintenance budget for FY2008 that was voted and approved by the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee on August 28, 2007 was \$16,180,901.

#### Elementary Buildings and Configuration

The School Committee held several public forums throughout the district in an effort to solicit community wide input on the issue of elementary buildings and configuration. Prior to (and after) the public forums the school committee participated in several retreat and work sessions. Committee members reviewed and discussed a wide variety of information that included projected budget and enrollment figures, the Elementary Study Group report, the importance of educational community values, building layout and classrooms sizes and building renovation and capital improvement needs. The school committee successfully voted to move the 6<sup>th</sup> grade from Sheffield Elementary to Great Falls Middle School, and also amended the Regional Agreement (after majority approval votes in both Gill and Montague) to allow Intra-District Choice.

### 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 continued to gain momentum in the community. The Third Annual Gill-Montague Gala was held on April 28, 2007 at the Turners Falls High School Theater featuring *Velocity with The Gregory Caputo Big Band*.

### Student Achievement and Accountability

The Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA) report from the state outlined several programs that the district needs in order to improve student achievement. During SY06-07 Superintendent Sue Gee put forward an Education Plan that focused on improving student achievement, improving the quality of education in the district, and attracting new students to Gill-Montague schools. Those items included, but were not limited to:

- teacher training for implementing the new math program
- annual replacement of materials for new programs already adopted
- cost of math and reading support/intervention/coaching
- cost of providing on-going professional development for teachers who are learning new curricula, instructional practices and assessments.

### Leadership Transition

Superintendent Sue Gee was hired as superintendent of the Quabbin Regional School District at the end of June 2007, and the School Committee hired Kenneth M. Rocke as interim superintendent.

For an up-to-date look at the district's educational and fiscal planning, please see the *Gill-Montague Regional School District's Turn Around Plan*, posted on the district website at [www.gmrtd.org](http://www.gmrtd.org). This report was written in response to a Department of Education District Leadership Evaluation Report, filed by the DOE monitoring team that visited our schools in October 2007. This *Turn Around Plan* will be presented to the State Board of Education on March 25, 2008.



## **Gill Elementary School**

For the school year 2006-2007, Gill Elementary School had an enrollment of 103 children in kindergarten through Grade 6. Classroom teachers were supported in their work by a Special Needs teacher and a teacher responsible for the operation of the program for the five children on the autism spectrum. The teaching staff worked closely 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.

This year went by quickly with a change in the administrative staff and new personnel in the teaching and paraprofessional staff. David Crisafulli was hired as the new principal.

Enchanted Circle Theater provided the Gill School with an artist in residency program for all staff and students, which integrates theater arts, such as theater, dance, music, visual and listening arts, with the schools language arts and science curriculum. A professional development day was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> with all staff members. The culminating activity was an all school assembly, with each classroom sharing their creative curriculum performance project held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. In between, Enchanted Circle Theater artists worked with staff and students with the theme of The Connecticut River and its related content themes of Animal Adaptations, Habitat Industry, Geology and Conservation.

The arts are greatly valued at Gill. This concentration on the arts (music, visual arts, theater and storytelling) was a conscious effort to provide each child with an increased level of expressiveness. Grants from the Gill Arts Lottery Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Gill-Montague Education Fund and the Quintas Allen Fund, along with funds from the PTO, all helped support these efforts.

We were able to expand student experiences and support in-school curriculum by utilizing local and regional resources through a series of field trips. Local field trips included visits to the Gill Library and the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. In addition, fourth grade students took a day long trip to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. The sixth grade classroom was able to visit the Sargent Center in Hancock New Hampshire for a week long envi-

ronmental education experience in February. The trip was a great success and students enjoyed the center and the welcoming approach by the Sargent Staff.

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 eleventh 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, there were family events such as the Book Fair, Holiday Crafts Night, the Cookie Exchange and the Arts and Eats Evening. The PTO at the Gill School goes the extra mile and was of great financial assistance in supporting this year's school play, field trips, providing staff with school supplies and the numerous donations to assist the staff have a successful school year. The school would like to recognize all the members of the executive committee and all those parents whose strong support assisted the students at the Gill School

### **Montague Center Elementary School**

For the school year 2006-2007, Montague Center Elementary School had an enrollment of 86 children in kindergarten through Grade 3. Children attending the school come from each of the five villages of the town. There was a total of sixteen staff members including professional and paraprofessional staff, part time therapists, maintenance workers and administrative personnel.

This year went by quickly with a change in the administrative staff and new personnel in the teaching and paraprofessional staff. Christine Jutres was hired as the new principal.

Professional development activities focused on the implementation of the new Houghton Mifflin Math Program. The staff is working diligently in implementing the new Houghton-Mifflin Math Expressions series. Everyone is actively involved in the professional development activities by the Houghton-Mifflin consultants who are training the staff in the new strategies for teaching elementary math methods. The new reform math is quite different in the way it is taught to children. The teachers are excited about the pro-

gram and will provide a great boost for the school in the teaching of math to our students. With the implementation of the HM reading program there is now a consistent reading series district wide.

There were some highlights in 2006-2007 that we want to spotlight. First and foremost was our study of the Sawmill River. This was a multi-disciplinary project that utilized the Environment as an Integrated Context for Learning (EIC) approach and included work with staff from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. Montague Center School is an EIC school, one of four that have been given that distinct honor in the state of Massachusetts.

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, the cookie exchange, book fair, fishing derby and field day and the gathering together for the community picnic and pie auction. Parent volunteers also operated the school library and helped out on field trips. We were able to expand student experiences and support in-school curriculum by utilizing local and regional resources through a series of field trips. Local field trips included visits to the Saw Mill River plus the Shea Theater and the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

### **Hillcrest Elementary School**

#### **Statistics**

The Hillcrest Elementary School maintained its enrollment at an average of 180 preschool through grade 2. We had eight students for whom English was a second language.

During 2007 we maintained 1 full day and 2 half day preschool programs, serving 45 preschool students. There were 2 kindergarten classrooms, 3 classrooms of first grade and two classrooms of second grade. Of the preschoolers, 21 of 45 students were on IEPs. Students in kindergarten through grade 2, ten of 137 students received services through special education and there were 6 students on 504 plans. Our free and reduced lunch averaged 51%, down just a percentage point from 2006.

#### **A Culture of Literacy Development**

Our Kindergarten, First and Second grades continued in their fourth year of implementation of the Reading First Program.

Trained paraprofessionals continued to implement the supplemental and intervention programs associated with the Reading First program. We were able to offer reading intervention before school and during school to targeted students in all grade levels. An average of 30 students were served before school in groups which changed membership depending on student progress, while in-school interventions targeted an additional 40+ students. On the whole, there was positive movement as measured by the DIBLES and GRADE for students into the best category “low risk”.

Reading Recovery, a program providing individualized reading instruction to the lowest first grade readers provided support to 12 students. The Reading Recovery teacher also provided small group targeted instruction to grades 1&2 students under the Title I Program. The special education teacher, who also is a certified Reading Recovery teacher, provided additional small group targeted instruction. In this way, the Hillcrest support teaching staff was able to continue its focus on student achievement regardless of the “hat” the teacher wore.

A behavioral classroom began its first year of implementation independent from any outside organization. Six students were served by this program. All students were assigned and supported to participate in mainstream classrooms whenever possible.

Classroom environments continued to be print-rich with a special focus on vocabulary walls. All School Meeting featured vocabulary challenges which became part of a school wide “Word Market”.

Under the Reading First initiative, teachers also met with the reading specialist in regular grade level meetings, targeting topics related to implementation of the Houghton – Mifflin reading program. This included continued work with Beck’s Vocabulary, spelling and using the RF assessments and progress monitoring data.

At the end of the school year, the staff began a new look at important uses of non-fiction (informational text) with an eye towards stepping up its important place in instruction for the upcoming school year. School wide literacy events included our annual read-a-thon, parent read-a-thon, Family Literacy Night celebration, Title I family events (Pajama Night, Bingo 4 Books) and information in the Principal’s newsletters about supporting children’s literacy development at home.

Students targeted to be in first, second and third grade of fall 2007 were invited to participate in the summer reading camp Razzle Dazzle. The summer of 2007 marked the sixth year of a joint effort of the Montague Public Library and Hillcrest School. Great Falls Discovery Center continued for the second year as our other partner and site for the program. The staff of trained reading and classroom teachers and a paraprofessional provided supplemental reading and writing instruction four days a week for six weeks. Research projects included weekly trips to the Carnegie Library. The summer program is traditionally theme based. This summer, the program focused on “Reading to the Beat” based on the theme of music. Thirty-two students of all reading abilities participated in the program, including students from the Montague Center School.

All grades Pre-K through 2 continued to produce bimonthly curriculum maps to be distributed to parents. Collaborating to revise and update the curriculum maps continued to be an important way for teachers to discuss curriculum alignment. Monthly staff meetings were devoted to topics related to RF elements that were being highlighted by the Department of Education.

### **New Curriculum**

As a district, we moved to an all-elementary focus for professional development, targeting the implementation of a new mathematics curriculum, *Houghton-Mifflin Math Expressions*. Some teachers, including one first grade teacher from Hillcrest, began early implementation and the rest of the faculty followed in late winter. Paraprofessionals participated in a yearlong mathematics program designed specifically for paraprofessionals by the MTA testing to plan instruction. Materials for the program were purchased for the elementary schools through grants and stabilization funds.

### **Climate**

The school implemented its second year with the new “Pathways” focused behavior plan and continued to put into practice the Responsive Classroom. Four staff attended the weeklong RC Summer Institute in 2007. We continued to use end of the day classroom meetings, All School Meetings and aspects such as Apology of Action to reinforce RC practice. Staff also did some reading around Academic Choice and cited it as a topic for further study next year. Classroom teachers continued the Wednesday

Friends program of cross-grade buddies to work together on projects throughout the school year. As always, Wednesday Friends work on projects to support school wide theme of Quilt Chronicles.

### **The Arts, Enrichment & Wellness**

Because of the joint efforts of the Hillcrest PTO and the Massachusetts Cultural Council grant, an expanded art experience for our students continued. We began year one of a new project: *Quilt Chronicles*. The program brought artist Susan Boss to our school to create “quilt” panels for a frieze representing the alphabet. Author Faith Ringold’s books were featured. The curriculum link focused on mathematics with classroom teachers supporting the geometry and measurement standards at their grade level throughout the residency.

The program also tied in nicely to support our culture of literacy. During All School Meetings, Wednesday Friends shared their own quilt creations based on the Faith Ringold story *Cassie’s Quilt*. We also invited members from the community to share their quilts. During our Family Literacy Night, families created family quilt squares using “memory cloth” brought from home. As a culminating event, both student quilt panels and community members and staff presented their work at a special afternoon “Quilt Museum”.

With the financial help of a GMEF grant, grade 2 students were able to view a special quilt exhibit at Historic Deerfield’s Memorial Hall. Other enrichment included GMEF and Local Cultural Council funding for visits to the Shea Theater and trips to the Northfield Mountain Program for hands-on experience with life science-life cycles.

After school programs provided enrichment opportunities for our students in book -making, arts and crafts, games, a program at the Carnegie Library and playing the recorder. Sessions averaged 8-10 students per activity with approximately 60-70 students total for the program.

Under the direction of the school nurse, we launched a special health initiative aimed at promoting healthy snacking behavior and improved fitness through increased physical activity. The school nurse was able to partner with Baystate Health Systems/Franklin Medical Center to obtain pedometers for all second grade students. Students were encouraged to keep track of their steps. Classroom teachers and the school nurse collaborated to keep the spirit of the

initiative going. The snacking program was a school wide effort with classroom lessons and demonstrations at All School Meetings. It was a successful beginning for future wellness programs with younger students.

### **Families**

Families participated in monthly activities throughout the school year. Beginning with the First Day of School breakfast and a separate Kindergarten Family Welcome, Preschool Open Houses and family activities focused on student learning and accomplishment in math, literacy and the Quilt Chronicles project. Various community nights, PTO family “Make n’ Takes”, Family Lunch and our ever-popular January Family Literacy Night continued the tradition of inviting families to be part of their child’s school. A new addition to our School Read-A-Thon was to invite parents to participate in their own read-a-thon with small prizes awarded for their participation.

The Community Partnership for Children /Family Network and the Kindergarten Enhancement grant were able to jointly fund a parenting workshop series. The School Community Council met to revise the school’s improvement plan and to survey parents. Our Parent survey revealed that families were interested in more online access to information related to the school as well as after school opportunities for kindergarten students. The District plans to introduce the EDLINE feature of our schools’ websites was timely as we made plans in for meeting parent requests for the upcoming school year. Parents also expressed confusion with our curriculum maps. The Council and staff decided to reduce the information to one curriculum map per grade on a page and to use “child friendly-family friendly” language for each content area.

### **Concluding remarks**

The Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of a staff and the students it serves. It is important that this report recognize the absolute dedication the Hillcrest teachers and paraprofessional staff have invested in the success of their students. Their willingness and enthusiasm to embrace new educational initiatives and refine previous practice is a testament to their dedication to their craft. We also owe much appreciation and gratitude to the families for their participation in the life of the school. Together we are better!

## **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 2006-2007 school year, student enrollment was 255 with 2 grade 3 classrooms, 3 grade 4 classrooms, 3 grade 5 classrooms and 3 grade 6 classrooms. We maintained 1.5 reading teachers under Title I and continued a successful Reading First Program for students in grade three. 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. Art Instruction has also been returned to the district and all students at Sheffield receive this once a week for ½ an hour.

### **Accomplishments for the 2006-07 school year include the following:**

A major professional development initiative and curriculum adoption of Houghton-Mifflin “Math Expressions” aimed at increasing the math skills and proficiency of all district students in grades K-5. Students in grade 6-8 will also be moving to a new math program in 2007-2008.

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 ongoing maintenance of the playground equipment. The PTO also coordinated the “First Day of School” Program. The Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Sheffield PTO provided grant funding for an artist-in-residence for a new Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant funded program “Curators in the Classroom” that provide opportunities for Sheffield students to improve their skills in writing captions, matting and framing their art work and displaying it as “museum quality” work. Every Sheffield student also had the opportunity to visit the Eric Carle Museum of Children’s Art in Amherst as a part of the project to see the work of real curators and real artists in a museum. This project will continue into the 2007-



2008 school year. Local artist Ruth O'Mera has served as Artist-in-Residence on this project. 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.

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. While this was the last year of funding for this grant under our collaboration with the Hampshire Regional Collaborative, we were successfully awarded a competitive grant for an independent, new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant to begin in the fall of 2007, continuing the wonderful legacy left by retiring director, Tova Neugut.

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 2006. We have increased donors to our summer reading program and have a sizeable pool of money to provide book awards to student who successfully complete the program. Donations can be made to the Gill-Montague Education Fund in care of Sheffield Library Fund.

### Budget Considerations

The Sheffield School Community Council submitted an extensive School Improvement Plan to the School Committee that was thoroughly considered by an appointed Local Review Panel according to State Guideline Requirements and revised accordingly. The full report is available from the Superintendent's office and contains the Sheffield School Community Council's programmatic and budgetary recommendations for improvement for student achievement for the 2007-2008 school year and beyond.

### Great Falls Middle School

Great Falls Middle School is an exemplary middle school of approximately 270 students in grades six through 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. The sixth grade also operates as a team, but students maintain the self-contained elementary classroom model they are familiar with from elementary school. The seventh and eighth grade teams include teachers of math, science, language arts and social studies as well as special education. The sixth grade team is composed of three generalist academic teachers, a special education teacher, and two special education paraprofessionals. A fourth team is composed of the teachers of related arts classes such as family and consumer science, health, art, physical education, and math applications. In addition to the four academic courses and the exploratory courses, all students participate in a directed reading program designed to improve their reading comprehension and fluency and expose them to a wide variety of authors and genres. Great Falls Middle School students also participate in the Responsive Designs for Middle School program, taking part in a Circle of Power and Respect each morning where students get to know one another, learn to interact respectfully, and have the opportunity to participate in group greetings, sharing and activities.

Throughout the year, students have the option of participating in marching band, jazz band and chorus as well as peer mediation, and several after school clubs. In addition, all students are invited to participate in a variety of after school activities offered daily through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center. The learning center offerings include a wide range of activities such as the homework help center, arts and crafts, 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 2006-2007 at Great Falls Middle School:

- ◆ First Day Celebration: The middle school began the year with a First Day celebration. On the day prior to school opening, parents and families of our students joined the faculty and staff for breakfast in the cafeteria. During breakfast, the attendees heard from administrators, team leaders, and specialists. Tours of the middle school and shared middle school/high school facilities were provided and parents had the opportunity to meet with the teachers of their child's team. It was a great success and a wonderful start to the new school year.
- ◆ 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 October 11th, 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.
- ◆ The tenth 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 nearly \$4,000 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.
- ◆ GFMS/TFHS musical production of "Little Shop of Horrors": 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.

- ◆ The 21st 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. This year, the event was once again held in the new middle school/high school cafeteria. The Social was, as always the social event of the year for middle school students.
- ◆ 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, with the charitable assistance of the middle school community, successfully responded to the needs of others by collecting several car loads of food for donation to the survival center.

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.

### **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 2006-2007 school year, 34 teachers, seven para-professionals, and nine support staff, served the needs of 376 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 2007 have advised us of their plans after graduation and they include:

- ◆ 43% of them will go on to 4 year colleges,
- ◆ 33% will begin their post secondary education at 2 year colleges,
- ◆ 7% will attend technical/vocational schools training for careers in a variety of different fields,
- ◆ 17% will go directly into the work force or military service.

Where ever their paths lead, no matter how many new friends they make or people they meet, as the class of 2007, and graduates of TFHS, they will share a bond that will keep them connected throughout their lives.

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 has offered diverse elective courses including three world languages (Latin, Spanish, and French), business education, technology education (graphic arts, Computer Aided Design, Wood Shop Manufacturing, and the History of Motion Pictures, and video production), health education, physical education grades 9-12, computer information, art, music, fine arts 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. 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 took advantage of the opportunity for hands-on learning: over 50 students were enrolled in the Tech Prep program, more than 20 students worked in the community at various businesses, under the School-to-Work program, and a number of 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 2007 graduation was held in our air conditioned gymnasium. 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 2007. Student accomplishments for the 2006-2007 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. Many of our teams were very successful in post season play, bringing recognition to our school.
- ◆ 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 Franklin County Fair Parade. Again the band marched in the Booster Day Parade and the Memorial Day Parade. The students performed in the Harvest Parade in Orange MA and won awards for their performance. The band also traveled to Toronto, Canada, where the Concert Band, Jazz Band and Chorus competed.
- ◆ Activities such as the Powder Puff football game, Snow Ball, National Honor Society induction, 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 *Little Shop of Horrors*, and performed to capacity crowds at each performance.

Demonstrating their commitment to professional development, all staff participated in a variety of workshops related to the NEASC accreditation recommendations, MCAS skills and assessment. The Turners Falls High School staff is dedicated to meeting the needs of diversified learners, 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.

### **District Special Education/Pupil Services**

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Gill-Montague Regional School District's Special Education/Student Services Department provided a vast array of services to approximately 278 special education students, 52 accommodation/504 students, 28 English Language Learners, and 28 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 21 eligible students.

Special education students attending programs in the district were provided access to each school's curriculum. The least re-

strictive placement with free and 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 2 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.

There are programs K-12, which are dedicated to providing emotional/social supports for students with behavioral disorders or emotional disabilities. 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. 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.

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 three elementary and one secondary nurse for the 2006-2007 school year. The district continues to collaborate with the East Longmeadow School System, sharing content of East Longmeadow's Health Improvement Grant. This collaboration allowed nurses to receive updated screening equipment.

### **Grants**

The Gill-Montague Regional School District receives grant funds for both programs and personnel 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. However, our decreasing student enrollment continues to impact the amount of funding we receive. For the 2006-2007 school year we received \$69,000 less in grant funds than the year before. This was due to decreases in the funds available from various state and federal grants. For example, we received \$60,000 less in federal entitlement funds than the year before. The chart below shows what was received.

It should be noted that we benefited from large block grants received by the Brick House and Montague Catholic Family Ministries. The Brick House funded the Reconnecting Youth program at the high school to help students at risk of dropping out of school. Montague Catholic Family Ministries funded the Family Literacy program that provided tutoring assistance for students in grades 1 to 4 who needed help with reading. Together those grants added up to \$100,000. (See table of grants on next page.)

### **Annual Report On Technology FY 2007**

The following are highlights of accomplishments in the 2006-2007 school year in the area of technology:

- An e-rate reimbursement at the 70% level was received for Internet & telecommunications services.
- We were able to renew all but one of our educational software licenses.
- We used grant funds to purchase the same Edline soft-

GRANT CODE #	GRANT TITLE	AMOUNT*
1	MCC Arts Grant	\$22,200.00
2	SCORE Grant	\$15,000.00
3	COPS in Schools	\$41,500.00
4	Responsive Classroom (from Northeast Foundation)	\$20,000.00
140	Title IIA: Improving Educator Quality	\$83,400.00
160	Title IID: Enhanced Educational Technology	\$3,741.00
164	Tech Support for Data Warehouse Project	\$5,000.00
240	SPED Allocation	\$376,793.00
242	SPED Electronic Portfolio	\$1,500.00
262	SPED Early Childhood Allocation	\$20,339.00
267	Reading Next: GFMS	\$8,000.00
274	SPED Program Improvement	\$10,658.00
302	Title V: Innovative Educational Program Strategies	\$2,713.00
305	Title I: Remedial Education Services	\$402,138.00
323	Middle School Improvement	\$20,020.00
331	Title IV: Safe & Drug Free Schools	\$8,294.00
391	Community Partnership for Children	\$173,500.00
574	Reading Recovery	\$12,500.00
632	Academic Support Services	\$3,700.00
647	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program for Sheffield	\$40,000.00
647	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program for GFMS	\$66,000.00
701	Full Day K: K Enhancement Program	\$47,000.00
728	Reading First	\$85,000.00
		<b>\$1,449,016.00</b>
e-rate	SLD Telecommunications Reimbursement	\$28,000.00

**GRAND TOTAL = \$1,477,016.00**

ware for the elementary schools that we had purchased the previous year for the middle and high schools. All parents now have online access to grades, homework, absences and notes from the teachers via secure passwords.

- We expanded our use of the Dept. of Education's Data Warehouse. The student information in the warehouse is designed to help teachers plan instruction and improve student performance.

We restructured our phone service, eliminating some

For the past few years, relying on the equipment that came through the middle/high school building project, we have been able to provide adequate computer equipment to all school personnel. That project has been over for several years and the hardware purchased at the start of the project is now 4-5 years old. At the end of the project any useable hardware from the old middle/high school building was moved to our elementary schools to replace much older equipment there. Much of that older middle/high school equipment is still in use in the elementary schools but it has been breaking down more and more often and is not worth repairing. Thanks to the money available from the Stabilization Fund, we will be able to replace some of that equipment in 2008.

Each year educators find new ways to use computer technology to help students learn. We continue to do our best to comply with the Massachusetts' Technology Benchmarks and to take advantage of the ever-increasing educational possibilities presented by technology. We are fortunate in having a technology support staff tech staff that is able to maintain the integrity of our computer networks and to keep our old computer equipment running as long as possible. We make every effort to keep down the cost of technology by repairing whatever we can ourselves. However, the cost of maintaining a computer network, Internet service, school web sites, and educational software licenses continues to grow and to strain the resources of the school district.

**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, 2007 Audited**

	<u>Final Budget</u>	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<b>Revenues and Other Sources:</b>			
Assessments to member towns	\$8,790,732	\$8,790,732	0
Tuition	470,000	500,525	30,525
Intergovernmental	6,648,044	6,604,166	-43,878

Investment Income	15,000	87,786	72,786
Miscellaneous	0	12,832	12,832
Other Sources	265,669	236,721	-28,948
Transfers in	245,000	245,000	0
<b>Total Revenues and Other Sources</b>	<b>16,434,445</b>	<b>16,477,762</b>	<b>43,317</b>
<b>Expenditures and Other Uses:</b>			
Administration	734,193	700,472	-33,721
Instruction	7,408,834	7,436,960	28,126
Other School Services	550,125	664,512	-114,387
Operation and maintenance	1,329,983	1,314,261	15,722
Fixed charges benefits	3,293,515	3,164,088	129,427
Debt Service	1,387,419	1,401,609	-14,190
Special education tuitions	1,069,823	809,641	260,182
School choice/charter	660,553	645,163	15,390
Transfer out	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	<b>16,434,445</b>	<b>16,136,706</b>	<b>297,739</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditure and other uses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>341,056</b>	<b>341,056</b>

<b>Contributors to the Annual Report</b>
Kenneth M. Rocke, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Lynn Bassett, Director of Business and Operations
Martin Espinola, Director of Technology and Grants
Cynthia Joyce, Director of Special Education and Student Services
Christine Jutres, Principal, Hillcrest Elementary School
Jeffrey Kenney, Principal, Turners Falls High School/ Great Falls Middle School
William McDonald, Principal, Gill Elementary School
William McDonald, Principal, Montague Center School
Chip Wood, Principal, Sheffield Elementary School

## SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY REPORT

This year's summer reading program "Catch the Beat at Your Library!" kept many local children dancing and reading all summer long. Over 60 children participated in our annual reading program, which made for a very fun and lively summer in the center of Gill. Highlights of the summer program included a performance by juggler Henry Lappen, a visit from Caravan Puppets from Amherst interpreting folktales from around the world, a morning spent with the Springfield Symphony's musical petting zoo and a community drumming circle with percussionist Otha Day. Children and their families visited the library all summer to take advantage of these wonderful performances and to participate in our summer reading challenge. This program continues to grow every year and we thank all the families who continue to participate and contribute to our library's growth.

Kimberl Sprankle, the assistant librarian, hosts her knitting workshop on the third Thursday of the month at Slate Library. The size of the group can vary, but the program has continued to offer community members a lively social environment throughout the year. This past year we saw several new knitters join the group and we continue to get new titles in needlecraft, knitting and crocheting to satisfy the demands of the community.

Kim and I host the popular "Story Hour at Slate" each Friday morning at 10 AM. Many new little faces have joined in the past year and participated in a fun filled hour of stories and art making. This program is funded by the Community Partnership for Children and we thank them for their continued support. "Story Hour at Slate" plays a valuable role in encouraging early literacy skills as well as creating a welcoming environment for young families in town.

Our collection continues to grow here at the Slate. We have many new book acquisitions as well as audio-visual materials. The children's audio collection has been strengthened over the past year and we have added many new DVDs to our shelves. Many thanks to our trustees who volunteer time and energy to the maintenance of the building. A special thank you to Sue Kramer who stepped down as a trustee after 15 years of dedicated service. Her contributions will be missed. Thanks go to Ann Perry and Ellen Johnson who continue on as active trustees and we welcome Lissa Greenough who has replaced Sue. Lissa served for many years as

director at Slate Library and her considerable knowledge of the collection and the building make her a valued addition. I thank all of them for their continued commitment to making the library the thriving site that it is.

Library 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 Jocelyn at 863-2591.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jocelyn Castro-Santos, Library Director*

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## **CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Committee completed its work on the informational calendar which is now televised daily for the residents of Gill. This project is directed and updated by Selectboard Administrative Assistant Tracy Rogers, with the Committee acting in an advisory capacity. It has been a unanimous decision of the Committee to table further development of the programming until such time as funding is available to expand the production.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Leland Stevens, Chair  
Rick James  
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo*

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## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT**

In 2007 the Conservation Commission reviewed Notices of Intent (NOI) that addressed the Commonwealth's Wetlands Protection, Rivers Protection, and Endangered Species acts, for proposed projects, and developed Orders of Conditions that protected identified resource areas or interests. The Commission also reviewed Requests for Determination (RD), which are submitted when wetlands/resource concerns are not clear to a project proponent or landowner. Site visits were arranged for both the NOIs and RDs to discuss on-site specifics of projects, to assess where resource areas

were located, and to provide additional guidance in the permitting process.

The Commission approved the use of the Town Conservation Account funds to cover appraisal costs for the Remillard Farm located on Bascom Road and to provide a portion of the necessary matching funds (previously approved by the Town) that are required by the Commonwealth in the purchase of the conservation easement/development rights. This project will add to the adjacent, and also recently protected, Worthington Farm, resulting in the protection of considerable acreage and frontage along the Falls River. Some progress was made trying to address the bank erosion issue on Dry Brook bordering the town cemetery. Although no in-stream or bank work was conducted in 2007, a site stabilization plan was produced by a contracted environmental firm, was reviewed (NOI) by the Commission, and an Order of Conditions was developed with the expectation that work will occur in 2008.

The ongoing bank erosion issues along the Connecticut River continue to be of concern to landowners and citizens in Gill, Northfield, and in Vermont. The Commission is intent on working more closely with the existing Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee that consists of local, county, and state governments, industry, and public members, to improve bank restoration measures, including the rate of progress by the power company and its contractors. A recently completed study on the bank erosion problem can be found on the Franklin Regional Council of Governments' website, [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org).

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth Sprankle*

*Tony Matthews, Chair  
Ted Castro-Santos  
Keith Lilly  
Ed Pogoda  
Kenneth Sprankle*

## COUNCIL ON AGING REPORT

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 referrals, outreach, nutrition, and health services in cooperation with other town departments and area agencies, to set policy for the operation of the Senior Center, and 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 look to other resources for some of our programs. We sincerely thank the Discovery Center, Our Lady of Peace and Congregational Churches, for allowing us the use of their facilities this year.

The Gill/Montague Senior Newsletter is published and sent six times a year to all seniors in Gill and Montague. Senior Publishing Co. publishes the newsletter for free. Postage is paid by donations and a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA). Council on Aging events and activities are also posted in the Recorder, Goodlife, Montague Reporter and Montague TV.

There are approximately 1,900 seniors in the two towns and, in 2007, over 500 of them took part in one or more of our activities. People from other towns also attend many our activities.

Transportation to the Senior Center is available through Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA).

Health and exercise programs are an important part of senior activities. Funding is made available through 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. About 25 – 30 seniors per month take advantage of this service

The annual flu clinic was held at the Discovery Center. This clinic is held under the supervision of the Montague Health Department and implemented by student nurses from Greenfield Community College. Greenfield Community College nursing students also assisted in coordinating a health fair at the Congregational Church. 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 was available free to any senior.



Exercise classes are available six times a week at the center. Senior aerobics classes are held three times a week. Easy Aerobics, a program designed for the frailer seniors, is available twice a week. One of our very popular programs, Tai Chi, is offered once a week. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise that helps balance and muscle strength. These programs are free of charge, however, participants make a donation to the Senior Center to support this and future programs.

The Brown Bag food distribution program is available to seniors qualifying under Western Mass Food Bank eligibility guidelines. Over 1,500 pounds of food were 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), and the Greenfield Community College Nursing Program,

Other recreation programs included bus trips. Six sessions of painting classes were offered in the fall and spring. Other programs included coffee breaks, holiday parties, potluck lunches, and 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. Many people come early to socialize with friends and play cards. Over 20,000 Meals on Wheels were distributed from this center.

The Senior Picnic at Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club in July and an Ice Cream Social at the Center in August were well attended.

The Council on Aging recognized its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Lunch in the spring. Volunteers from the two towns worked for a total of 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 the police departments and the Northwestern District Attorney's office. Programs are informative, entertaining, and provide an opportunity for socialization. Montague and Gill police departments and the District Attorney's Office sponsored

four TRIAD events with meals, at a minimum charge, serving approximately 180 people at each meal and provided interesting and informative programs helpful to the older population. For the sixth year TRIAD has also sponsored a “Seniors with Kids” fishing derby at Barton’s Cove. House numbers, “File of Life” and emergency information is available through TRIAD. We thank the Gill and Montague police, the District Attorney’s Office and the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office for the services they provide the seniors in this community.

AARP provided individual tax preparation and consultation free to 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.

The Senior Center was painted inside and out. Thanks to labor provided by the Sheriff’s Office.

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*

*Jim Greenleaf, Secretary*

*Audrey Ambo*

*Renee Jenkins*

*Joseph Naida*

## CULTURAL COUNCIL REPORT

Each year the Gill Cultural Council receives an allocation of funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support cultural programs in the Town of Gill. This year we were awarded \$4,000.00.

In the fall of 2006, the council received a total of 30 applications for funding. There were many worthwhile applications, but funding allowed for only twelve programs during the grant cycle. Cultural Council members chose grantees based on support to the school and library and also entertainment for community functions.

Selected applicants:

Rita Parisa – Waterfall Productions	\$300.00
Richard Clark – And Now Mark Twain	300.00
Jennifer Knight – Children’s Theater Workshop	75.00
Steve Damon – Common People Concerts	700.00
Ellen Clegg – Together in Rhythm	200.00
Gill Elementary School – Exploring the River around Us	700.00
Friends of Gill – Gill Fall Arts & Crafts	200.00
Cynthia Fulton – Children’s Art	350.00
Friends of Gill – Picnic on the Common	300.00
Slate Library –Most Precious Gift	395.00
Slate Library – World of Owls	230.00
Historic Commission – Vintage Clothing for Children	250.00

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

Many thanks to all the committee members who worked very hard this year on the reviews. Thanks also for their time, dedication, and input in serving on the Gill Cultural Council.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Veronica A. LaChance, Chair*

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Gill Fire Department responded to 186 calls in 2007, up from 180 calls last year. We responded 14 times for mutual aid to surrounding towns, and received mutual aid twice.

The Fire Department again this year applied for a \$4,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for a 50% matching grant to purchase brush fire related equipment. The grant was approved and we purchased a new portable pump to replace pumps that were purchased in 1970's.

The department also received a grant for \$3,900, which was used to purchase two different types of ventilation saws, again to replace an older type that we had.

We continued our aggressive fire prevention program for our elementary school and pre-schools. During one week every year 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 the children see us in a fire they will come to us and we will rescue them.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade also comes to the station and we explain the different classes of fire extinguishers and the proper use of each. 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 and fire prevention handouts purchased through the SAFE grant that we were awarded. I would like to thank all the firefighters who help make this Fire Prevention Week a great success.

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 everything is 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. I would like to thank my Training Officers Stu Elliott, Ken Sears, and Christopher Goodhind for all their hard work in planning these training nights. The fire department members also con-

tinue to devote a lot of their own, unpaid, time for training. 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.

On November 17, 2007 15 Gill firefighters participated in live fire training at the Springfield Fire training facility.

This past November and December the fire department personnel were trained by MEMA in radiological monitoring and decontamination procedures in case of an event at the Vermont Yankee power plant. The trainings take place for communities within the ten-mile radius of Vermont Yankee. Every two years there is a full scale exercise conducted by FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This event is monitored by FEMA, and their evaluators score us. In October of 2007 FEMA conducted one of these full scale exercises and the Gill Emergency Operations team did an outstanding job and received a perfect grade from FEMA and MEMA evaluators. I would like to thank all the town officials who took time off from their busy schedules to participate; this includes my fire department personnel, the selectboard (Nancy Griswold), the highway department (George Emery), police department (Chris Redmond) and the board of health (Randy Crochier).

The Gill Fire Department continues to upgrade its equipment and replace old, worn out equipment. This fire equipment can be very costly and has a definite impact on our yearly budget.

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

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.

As I have stated in past years, it is time for the town to realize that we are a growing community and therefore I will again be requesting a fulltime daytime firefighter position for FY2009. This has not yet been supported by the Selectboard or Finance Committee. Due to the number of volunteers who work out of town, there is often a delay in response time. Also, there is an increase in paperwork and inspections that need to be done during the work week and some of these could be done during the day.

In April of 2006 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 FY 2009, when this vehicle reaches 30 years of age. The town had previously agreed to rotate replacement of the three trucks every ten years, so that each truck will be in service for no more than 30 years.

In closing, my thanks to the officers and firefighters of the department for their help and support over the last year. Thanks also to the 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. Special thanks to Mickey, Ed and George from the highway department, and Dave and Chris and their police officers for their support during the past year.

After twenty years of volunteering for the Gill Fire Department, Captain Gary Parzych has decided to “retire” from the fire department to spend more time with his young children and wife. Thank you Gary.

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gene M. Beaubien  
Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director*



*Gary Stevens of North Cross Road with his steers.*

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE INSPECTION PROGRAM REPORT

### Building Inspections

Fiscal Year 2007 showed further decline in dwelling units constructed. The number of dwelling units for all towns was 58, the lowest since 1980. However, permit values were up, totaling \$37,327,030, thanks in large measure to the large commercial projects under way on the campus of Northfield Mt. Hermon School in Gill. Fees collected were \$222,293, also an increase from 2006.

Total number of permits issued remained steady at 1,022, which means renovation work and accessory structures under construction are off-setting the decline in new housing. The number of permits issued in each town remained up, with Shutesbury and Bernardston showing the largest increase.

Gill's fiscal year report for building permits:

Permits	72
Value	\$10,310,669
Dwelling Units*	4
Permit Fees	\$48,682
Certificates of Occupancy	20
Certificates of Inspection**	27
C.I. Fees	\$796
Other Fees***	\$195
Total	\$49,673

A major change for the program this year was the implementation of the new 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mass. Bldg. Code. As a service to all the member towns and builders, we presented a workshop on the proposed changes. Our newsletter is sent to all member towns and builders. If you wish to have a copy, please contact this office at 772-2026.

*Sincerely,  
James D. Hawkins  
Inspector of Buildings*

\*2-family and multi-dwellings are issued only one permit per building.

\*\*These figures reflect only those inspections which receive certificates, but for various reasons no certificates are issued.

\*\*\*Other fees reflect reinspections and duplication of permits and C.O.S.

**Electrical Inspections**

We had another busy year for electrical inspections. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few important points:

- ◆ Electrical work is to be done by a Massachusetts Licensed Electrician.
- ◆ A permit is required for most work.
- ◆ You have a right to ask to see an electrician’s license.
- ◆ Work done on any building may not be covered by your insurance if it is not inspected by this office.

A review of the number of permits and fees collected by the program each fiscal year for the last five years shows the following:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Permits</b>	<b>Fees</b>
2003	597	\$44,961
2004	629	51,460
2005	570	54,589
2006	591	62,267
2007	565	70,363

Below is a report for Fiscal Year 2007 which reflects wiring permits and fee activity for your town. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office.

Reinspection Fees	\$5,100
Permits	30
Amount	\$8,935

If you have any questions I can be reached during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7AM-9AM at 772-2026, ext 126 or by email at [electric@frcog.org](mailto:electric@frcog.org). You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org), under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

*Sincerely,  
James Slowinski  
Electrical Inspector*



**Plumbing/Gas Inspections**

A review of the number of permits and fees collected each fiscal year for the last five years shows the following:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of Permits</b>	<b>Fees</b>
2003	589	\$43,580
2004	574	44,436
2005	627	54,968
2006	552	53,033
2007	588	63,023

Below is a report for Fiscal Year 2007 which reflects Plumbing/Gas permits and fee activity for all member towns. For more information on activity in your town, please contact the office.

Reinspection Fees	\$0
Permits	33
Amount	\$4,210

I would like to take this opportunity to remind town residents that plumbing permits are required for installation and repairs with the following exception:

*A permit is not required for plumbing involving the repair of leaks in a faucet, valve, or other working part of a plumbing fixture, or the clearance of a stoppage.*

Permits shall only be issued to licensed plumbers. You may contact me during office hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7a.m.–9a.m. at 772-2026, ext. 125 or email me at [plumbing@frcog.org](mailto:plumbing@frcog.org). You will find permits, fee schedules, and helpful information on our web site at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org), under Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program.

Once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to all town officials for their cooperation and assistance during the past year.

*Sincerely,  
Andrew French  
Plumbing/Gas Inspector*

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPORT**

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.

We are currently finalizing plans for a permanent collection program for unwanted medications. This program will be the first in the Commonwealth. We are also working on disaster debris planning, with a focus on managing deceased farm animals. Franklin County has a large number of farm animals and a disaster or disease-outbreak could wreak significant devastation. Our planning efforts are intended to identify a clear response system should an emergency arise.

We have worked with several schools to improve their recycling program as well as to implement a program to collect food waste for composting. The District also provides hands-on assistance to businesses and institutions that want to recycle or compost their waste.

Using a small grant from the Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Board, we researched, designed, and uploaded a new page to our website called, “What Do I Do With...” This page lists hundreds of items that are found in household trash and identifies the options for recycling or disposing of them.

In 2007, District towns recycled approximately 2,400 tons of paper and 1,100 tons of mixed containers. By diverting a total of 3,500 tons of recyclables from landfills and incineration, District towns collectively saved over \$230,000 in disposal costs.

The District held its annual household hazardous waste collection in September. Almost 400 residents participated at the three regional sites. Through a state grant, we also were able to collect old pesticides from ten area farms. The next household hazardous waste collection will be held on September 13, 2008.

The annual “Clean Sweep” collection was held in October. There were 300 participants at three regional sites. Residents delivered close to 40 tons of appliances, scrap metal, bulky items, electronics, tires, and propane tanks!

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 772-2438; visit our website at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org); or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

*Jan Ameen - Executive Director*

*Becky Jurek, Bernardston - Chair*

*Nathaniel L'Etoile, Northfield - Vice-Chair*

*Andrea Donlon, Buckland - Treasurer*

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

As your highway superintendent I would like to thank the citizens of Gill for all of your continued support. It is a pleasure to work for a community that is dedicated to its employees.

In this past year the highway department has been very busy working with Mass Highway and F&J on the reconstruction of Main Road. This project has been a long process and many people are looking forward to the finished results. As the project unfolded this past year, the highway department received and addressed many complaints. As a result, the project moved forward with corrections and alterations to the original design. The contractor has been very cooperative and has listened to the issues raised from all angles. I am happy to say at this time that the project is just about finished.

Chapter 90 funds this past year were used in many different ways, but always to keep your roads in the best possible shape we can. These funds are provided to us through the Commonwealth and are strictly earmarked for road repairs and upgrades. This year's funds enabled us to purchase some of the materials needed to continue the road sealing program, as well as the engineering costs associated with the Main Road project. As a result of design error in the Main Road project, we used Chapter 90 funds to build a retaining wall. In order to save the town thousands of dollars, the highway crew excavated for and installed the wall themselves.

Also with Chapter 90 funds we were able to repave one mile of Main Road from Wyart Road to just short of Lyons Hill Road. This section of Main Road was very cracked and starting to unravel; had we not repaved it, the roadway would not have lasted another year. This section was last paved twenty years ago according to the records found.

Town highway funds this year were used to patch, shim, pave, seal, and repair roads and mow along them; paint guidelines, fix and install guardrails, install signs, and trim brush. We also cleaned catch basins, swept streets, plowed and sanded, and conducted general maintenance tasks on all town roads and buildings. The crew repaired the heating system in the Riverside Municipal Building, assisted with the power washing and painting of Town Hall, and made repairs to the Public Safety Complex.

The road sealing program, set up as an ongoing way to keep the roads in good condition, continued this year with an overlay of

2,112 feet on Ben Hale Road, 3,168 feet on Barney Hale Road and 8,976 feet on Mountain Road.

In closing this year's report, I would like to thank the people who support the highway department and I would also like to say a special thank you to the other highway department employees for their hard work and dedication in the past year. Without these talented individuals, the highway department would not be able to maintain the quality of service you deserve. Thank you again.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mitchell L. LaClaire Sr.  
Highway Superintendent*



*Illustration courtesy of Karen Wilkinson, Montague Reporter.  
Refers to one of Cliff Hatch's cows escaping through the "turtle" culvert under Main Road.*

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

In 2007, Commission members continued to explore historical information about Gill and ways of sharing it with Gill residents. Members did background research about dinosaur tracks found locally and on early life in Gill. A scanner was purchased to make copies of historical photos. Other acquisitions included seven old maps of Gill, stone fossils of ancient fish taken from the riverbed below the Turners Falls/Gill riverbed, additional Robert Darr Wert towels and banners, and several diaries that were written between 1868 and 1876. One of the commission members transcribed a long letter written in 1893 that describes a local family's cross-country journey to Oregon.

In May, the commission again hosted children from the Gill School. Thank you letters from the children became a part of our museum collection. The children enjoyed Bob Perry's demonstration of logging on the Connecticut River as well as a visit to the Gill museum. In remembrance of Harriet Tidd, who passed away in April, children enjoyed early family photos and tried on clothing donated to the museum from Mrs. Tidd's estate. Later in the year, the commission received a grant from the Gill Cultural Council to create vintage clothing for an interactive children's workshop.

In October, the commission opened the museum during the Fall Craft Fair. This year the museum featured a collection of photos created by Stuart Elliott of the Gill Volunteer Fire Department's activities.

Many visitors contributed stories of their experiences remembering when the Gill School was housed in the Riverside Municipal Building, and searched for family information in the museum's books of historical photos.

The commission reopened the museum to visitors every Thursday evening from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Members closed the year with efforts to transcribe diaries of Gill life, in order to make these accounts of our early history available to Gill residents.

The commission meets every third Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:00. We appreciated donations that were made to the museum this year. We continue to work toward the preservation of historical information about our community, and invite suggestions about new ways to share our history.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cristin Carpenter, Chair*

## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Day service was held on May 27<sup>th</sup> in the Gill Congregational Church, led by Gary Bourbeau, who also presented the message. Services continued across the street at the Veterans' Monuments. Boy Scout Troop 6 participated in the Rose Ceremony. The Oak Ridge Detachment Marine Corps League participated while the new flags were raised. Also on hand were members of the Gill Fire Department who served as honor guard and Steve and Joyanna Damon played *Taps*. This year we had local veterans who volunteered to carry service flags for Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Support Our Troops, which were donated by Chet Kuzontkoski for this special occasion. New flags and geraniums were distributed at each of the veteran's grave sites.

We offer our thanks to all who have taken time to participate in this event honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country.

The 2008 Memorial Day service will be held on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. It is our hope that you will take advantage of the privilege, and accept the responsibility, to take part in this important day.

New flags were also distributed at each of the veteran's grave sites in November in honor of Veterans Day.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Elaine Smith*

*Douglas Smith*

*Chester Kuzontkoski*

*Gary Bourbeau*

*Merri Bourbeau*

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

All of us living in Gill have a lot to be proud of...the beautiful open spaces and pride in community are just some of the great things that make our town a wonderful place to call home.

The vision for the Town of Gill is to recognize and preserve the town's unique natural, historic, and scenic resources, as well as its overall rural character. The preservation of these assets is for the benefit of current and future residents and visitors alike. This vision for Gill includes the continued provision of quality community services and the promotion of the economic well-being of residents and the health of the town's business community.

Every person has his or her own ideas and opinions about the character of our town. What are appropriate land uses, how much business will impact our tax base and what is the vision for our town as we move into the future?

Planning can help a community to guide future growth. It can answer questions like, "Where should additional housing be constructed? What are the best locations for a park?" One of the main planning goals for 2008 will be preparing the Mariamante property for growth and/or development that remains consistent with the community's needs.

Gill is assisted in its planning and community development efforts by several regional organizations including the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Franklin Community Development Corporation, Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Franklin County Home Care Corporation, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and Franklin Regional Transit Authority. Gill residents serve as representatives to these and other organizations, carrying out local and regional planning initiatives.

*Doug Smith, Chair  
Planning Board*



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Gill Police Department  
196B Main Rd  
Gill MA 01354  
Emergency 911  
Fax (413) 863-0157  
Station (413) 863-9398  
Email policedept@gillmass.org

In completing my 13<sup>th</sup> year as the Chief of Police for the Town of Gill, please accept the following as a summary of activity for this wonderful community. It is truly my honor to serve the citizens and serve with my fellow dedicated officers in this department.

### **Traffic**

Per weekday, an average of 12,000 motor vehicles travel through Gill over the French King Bridge. The weekday average at the Gill-Greenfield town line is 13,660, with the highest day of the week being Friday with over 15,000 motor vehicles. Traveling up Main Road, just south of the West Gill Road intersection, we have a weekday average of 4,300 motor vehicles and a weekday average of 1,540 motor vehicles continuing up Main Road to the intersection with South Cross Road. Where Main Road crosses the Northfield Town Line, there is a weekday average of 1,200 motor vehicles. This information was provided by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments in November of 2007.

The department received a grant funded by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. This grant supplemented patrols to enforce various traffic laws in five statewide mobilizations. These mobilizations included: Drunk Driving—Over the Limit Under Arrest, Road Respect, and Click It or Ticket.

### **Monthly Activity Summary**

**January.** Full-time officer Doug Kaczmarczyk resigned from the department to accept a full-time position for the Athol Police Department. Doug had worked for Gill as a part-time officer since July of 2001 and full-time since July of 2004. His time served with Gill was greatly appreciated.

Officer Adam Sokoloski was hired to fill the full-time position vacated by Officer Kaczmarczyk. Adam has been an officer in Gill since November of 2003.

Chief David Hastings was elected President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association.

Chief Hastings and Sergeant Christopher Redmond attended the Crisis Intervention Program presented by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office in Greenfield.

**February.** Sgt. Redmond attended the New England Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar in Connecticut presented by the FBI.

**March.** The Main Road project was back in full swing with a detour in place for all through traffic. Drivers were assisted in safely traveling through to local businesses and residences.

Sgt Redmond received a letter of thanks from Montague Police Chief Ray Zukowski for his assistance with a violent suicidal subject, threatening his wife and then officers with a knife.

**April.** Chief Hastings was a guest speaker at the Dispatcher Recognition Ceremony held at Greenfield Community College.

**May.** Officer Shaun Coughlin received a letter of thanks for his assistance with the Memorial Day services in Gill.

Officer Sokoloski attended the conference "Creating A Safer Future For Our Children" at Western New England College.

**August.** Officer Sokoloski participated in the Old Home Days parade in Montague.

**September.** Officer Sokoloski presented a safety class at Mountain Road Schoolhouse.

The Town of Gill welcomed back Officer John Perrault as a part-time officer.

All officers assisted with the TRIAD dinner and magic show at Schuetzen Verein.

Chief Hastings received a card of thanks from Molly Perry for sponsoring her attendance to the Student Trooper program at the State Police Academy.

**October.** Officers Nicole Fiske and Scott Waldron attended an updated class on the Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) in Greenfield. Officer Fiske is the primary officer for our department for the SORB. Officer Fiske also has office hours on Monday evenings from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM for residents to renew their pistol permits.

Chief Hastings, Sgt. Redmond and Officer Jason Bassett attended the Counter Terrorism Class in Springfield as part of the ongoing State and Federal Standards.

The department received a card of thanks from the Friends of Gill for its assistance with the Craft Fair over Columbus Day weekend. Community Policing grant funds were used to pay officers to provide traffic control for the fair.

**November.** Chief Hastings attended the conference “Soldiers’ Strategies, Readjusting to the Civilian World” offered in Holyoke.

In closing, I wish to express my thanks to the townspeople who continue to support the department so that we may provide this community with the best possible police force. Thank you to the continued interaction of our highway and fire departments to make our working relationship what it is. As always, our department thanks the Selectboard for their tireless efforts to guide our town.

#### **Case Activity Statistics**

Total Offenses Committed:	152
Total Felonies:	40
Total Crime Related Incidents:	69
Total Non Crime Related Incidents:	314
Total Arrests (On View):	16
Total Arrests (Based on Incident/Warrants):	6
Total Summons Arrests:	27
Total Arrests:	49
Total P/C's:	0
Total Juvenile Arrests:	2
Total Juveniles Handled (Arrests):	1
Total Juveniles Referred (Arrests):	1
Total Open Warrants:	1
Total Restraint Orders:	5

### Citation Statistics

Total Citations Issued = 608

<b>Citation</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Arrest	4	0.7
Civil	236	38.8
Complaint	7	1.2
Warning	340	55.9
Verbal	17	2.8
Void	4	0.7
Speed measured by radar	391	64.3
Speed measured by clock	1	0.2
Speed not measured (speed not involved)	212	34.9
Accident occurred	4	0.7
Citation issued to owner	1	0.2
Road divided	1	0.2
CDL Licenses	6	1.0
Commercial vehicle	1	0.2
Hazardous materials involved	0	0.0
Average speed	57 MPH	
Average speed limit	42 MPH	
Average MPH over speed limit	15 MPH	

Total Fine Amounts: \$35,030.00

**Major Accidents By Street Name and Month**

Street/Location	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
BEN HALE RD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
BOYLE RD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DOLE RD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ⓔ FRENCH KING HWY	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	13
MAIN RD	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	12
MILLERS FALLS RD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NORTHFIELD RD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
RIVER RD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
S CROSS RD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
W GILL RD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>

### Operator State Statistics

<u>State</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
CALIFORNIA	3	0.5
COLORADO	1	0.2
CONNECTICUT	7	1.2
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1	0.2
ILLINOIS	1	0.2
KANSAS	1	0.2
MASSACHUSETTS	494	81.8
MAINE	2	0.3
MICHIGAN	1	0.2
NEW HAMPSHIRE	43	7.1
NEW JERSEY	3	0.5
NEVADA	2	0.3
NEW YORK	11	1.8
OHIO	1	0.2
PENNSYLVANIA	3	0.5
QUEBEC, CANADA	1	0.2
RHODE ISLAND	2	0.3
TEXAS	2	0.3
VIRGINIA	1	0.2
VERMONT	20	3.3
UNSPECIFIED	3	0.5
ALL OTHERS	1	0.2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Racial Profiling Data

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Black	12	2.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	4	0.7
Hispanic	15	2.5
Middle Eastern or East Indian (South Asian)	2	0.3
White	567	93.9
Missing/Violator Not Present/Unknown	4	0.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Operator Age/Sex/Race

<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>&lt;19</u>	<u>19-21</u>	<u>22-25</u>	<u>26-35</u>	<u>36-55</u>	<u>&gt;55</u>	<u>Totals</u>
White	Male	8	39	34	56	128	57	322
	Female	2	29	22	53	102	32	240
	Totals	10	68	56	109	230	89	562
Black	Male	0	0	0	3	3	1	7
	Female	0	0	2	1	2	0	5
	Totals	0	0	2	4	5	1	12
Asian	Male	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Totals	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Un-known	Male	0	0	2	9	4	2	17
	Female	0	0	0	2	3	1	6
	Totals	0	0	2	11	7	3	23
All Races	Male	8	39	36	68	137	61	349
	Female	2	29	24	57	107	33	252
<b>Totals</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>601</b>

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

I have noticed that many dogs are still not being licensed in a timely manner. If you cannot control your dog, please tie it up. Some people do not enjoy your dog as much as you do, so please license and control your pet—not only for their safety, but for public safety. Thank you.

Yearly report is as follows:

Loose dogs	7
Wildlife (sick)	4
Dog bite	1
Nuisance wildlife	1
Protective custody (dogs)	2
Dog barking	1
Dog versus car	1

*Respectfully submitted,  
Edward Ambo, Jr.  
Animal Control Officer*



*Kelly Augustine with her Brown Swiss steers, Pete and Buck. Pete and Buck won "Best Pair Under 2100 Pounds" at the 2007 Cheshire Fair in Swanzey, NH.*



## VETERANS' SERVICES REPORT

Dear Veterans' Town of Gill:

### **Heating Assistance for Veterans.**

With the high cost of heating fuel, the House and Senate have passed legislation that provides an increase in fuel assistance for those receiving Chapter 115 benefits. This bill requires an additional \$3.9 million annually, ensuring for the first time that fuel benefits for veterans and their dependents have a statutory minimum level instead of a discretionary annual review.

### **Increased Burial Benefits for Indigent Veterans.**

This bill honors our veterans by increasing the existing Burial Benefits for Indigent Veterans from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for the cost of funeral and burial for indigent veterans.

### **Welcome Home Bonus information.**

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- ◆ Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2005: Six months domicile in Massachusetts immediately prior to latest enlistment/ commission into the armed forces,
- ◆ For active service on or after September 11, 2001,
- ◆ Discharged/active service must be under honorable conditions.

#### **Payment Information:**

1. Active service in Afghanistan or Iraq: \$1,000
2. Six months or more active service, state side or outside the continental limits of the United States \$500
3. Active service shall not include active duty for training in the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, those in the Naval Academy or active duty for training as a reservist in the armed forces of the United States.

*Sincerely,*

*Leo J. Parent, Jr*

*Director*

*Central Franklin County Veterans' District*

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION REPORT

The Agricultural Commission met once last year. Members discussed what the goals of the Commission should be. Its first goal is to focus on a Right to Farm bylaw to bring to the annual town meeting in May 2008.

The commission is also exploring educational activities both for its members and for the public in general.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Richard French*

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**FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
82 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376**

### 2007 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2007 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2007 was 525 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	26	Erving	7	Montague	69	Sunderland	13
Buckland	16	Gill	10	New Salem	6	Warwick	8
Colrain	25	Greenfield	138	Northfield	29	Wendell	8
Conway	11	Heath	6	Orange	66	Whately	8
Deerfield	15	Leyden	5	Shelburne	13	Non-District	42

Franklin County Technical School awarded 117 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2007. This marked the sixth 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. 45% of our graduates planned to go on to either a two or four year college, 38% joined the area work force, 2% planned to join the military, 9% went on to a post secondary trade/technical school. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2007.

All schools in the Commonwealth are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to meet or exceed specific student performance standards in English/language arts and mathematics. The Franklin County Technical School did not achieve adequate yearly progress determinations for the 2006 – 2007 school year and, with one exception, this is the first time this has occurred since 2001. This determination is based solely on how students perform during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS exams. Our students commence their education with us in their ninth grade year, and although this determination was not achieved within their first two years with us, we are nonetheless proud of the fact that our students have a 99% success rate of passing MCAS by the time they graduate.

During the 2007 school year, the students from various vocational programs continue to give back to the municipalities and non-profit entities in our district through the completion of a variety of projects. Our unique house building partnership with Habitat for Humanity continues this year and is being considered as a case study by Habitat International in Atlanta, GA. They are interested in replicating this mutually beneficial relationship in other areas. The police station in Bernardston will receive a turf installation in the spring, the Central MA Steam, Gas and Machinery Association located at the Orange airport will benefit from a new heating system installation, Veterans Memorial Field in Greenfield will experience phase two of the plumbing/lighting renovation and the Union 38 school district has had computer projectors installed by our electrical students to name a few projects. There are at least a dozen more either in progress or planned in the future.

We have a very well maintained building that has aging mechanical systems and, consequently, we are confronted with increasing repair and maintenance costs for these systems. The administration began to explore a possible solution to these issues last winter through performance contracting. Performance contracting allows municipalities and regional school districts the opportunity to install new energy efficient systems and use the resulting savings in energy costs to finance the improvements. The law states that the net impact on the overall budget must be zero. We are currently pursuing a performance contract and, with school committee approval, could have new systems in place in 2008.


We continue to work with Greenfield Community College to offer evening courses at Franklin County Technical School, as well

as a program that is co-taught by a F.C.T.S and a G.C.C. instructor and is offered after our normal school hours. This program enables our seniors to experience the college environment first hand while obtaining college credits.

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

Mr. Richard K. Lane, Superintendent

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## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Employee Representative David Hastings was re-elected as Chairperson on the Committee for the fourth consecutive year. Ann Banash and Paul Nowill were selected to represent the Selectboard and Finance Committee, respectively, while Kristi Tognarelli and Tom Hodak served as Members-at-Large for the Community. Administrative Assistant Deb Roussel served as a non-voting member, as established in the bylaws, until she resigned in June and her seat was filled by Tracy Rogers in July.

In January, the Committee recommended to the Selectboard to increase the mileage reimbursement rate to 48.5 cents per mile, based on the IRS mileage rate deduction.

Also, the Committee recommended to the Selectboard a cost of living adjustment of 2.75 percent based on the two indexes outlined in the Personnel Policy for the Town of Gill.

In March, the Committee reviewed and recommended placement of the Assessors' Clerk on the wage scale accepted by the Town of Gill.

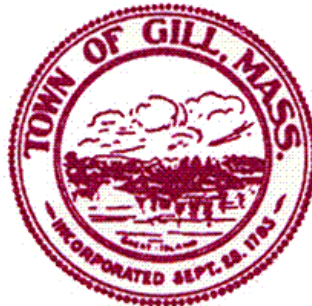
Policies were reviewed and discussed throughout the year as required for clarity.

On behalf of the town employees, I wish to thank all the committee members for their time and effort in serving on the board.

*Respectfully submitted,  
David W. Hastings, Chair*

FINANCIAL  
REPORTS OF  
TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN OF GILL  
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR  
2007

## TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS

NAME	Bal. 7/1/06	Income	Expense	Interest
<b>WEST CEMETERY</b>				
P. C. Funds	\$1,963.86		\$225.00	96.77
Alonzo Atherton	\$387.84			19.35
Day, Wood, Hosmer	\$531.47		\$135.00	25.80
George W. Harris	\$323.34			16.12
George W. Hastings	\$519.33		\$295.00	25.01
Lewis L. Hastings	\$358.47			17.88
Helen M. Lynde	\$129.95			6.48
<b>Total West CEMETERY</b>	<b>\$4,214.26</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$655.00</b>	<b>\$207.41</b>
<b>NORTH CEMETERY</b>				
North Burial	\$551.50		\$160.00	26.67
P.C. Funds	\$1,376.65		\$260.00	67.20
George R. Bliss	\$790.62		\$380.00	36.16
Julian T. Martindale	\$649.06		\$600.00	29.23
Holland F. Roberts	\$90.76			4.52
Bardwell-Severance	\$404.44			20.18
Reb. & Lydia Stockwell	\$289.55			14.44
Ella J. Stoughton	\$569.49			28.40
Wright & Perry	\$787.43			39.28
<b>Total North CEMETERY</b>	<b>\$5,509.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,400.00</b>	<b>\$266.08</b>
<b>CENTER CEMETERY</b>				
P.C. Funds	\$4,253.85			212.19
Josiah D. Canning	\$484.59			24.18
Frederick Hale	\$8,482.99		\$553.00	421.48
Kate L. Haywood	\$469.22		\$180.00	22.53
Lyman B. Howe	\$948.58		\$120.00	46.68
Samuel Janes	\$964.80			48.12
E. L. Kelly	\$1,001.95			49.98
A.F.S. Lyons	\$1,253.20			61.48
William Nichols	\$1,182.02		\$270.00	58.93
Halbert & Persis Phillips	\$916.84			45.74

### TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS (Continued)

NAME	Bal. 7/1/06	Income	Expense
Warren Purple	\$590.57		
William H. Rapp	\$1,086.22		
Emily A. Roberts	\$905.72		
Toomey-Scheiding	\$719.08		
Hollis M. Slate	\$1,519.85		
Gilbert Stacy	\$908.71		
Samuel P. Stratton	\$882.43		
John A. Tenney	\$686.62		
Sarah S. Van Horn	\$821.76		
<b>Total Center CEMETERY</b>	<b>\$28,079.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,123.00</b>
<b>RIVERSIDE CEMETERY</b>	<b>\$104.93</b>		<b>\$9.27</b>
<b>LIBRARY FUNDS</b>			
Charles Stoughton	\$4,196.68		
Cora Holmes	\$1,190.56		
Harris Trust	\$10,209.82		
Mary Morgan	\$1,019.03		
Riverside Library	\$3,610.91		
Library Trustees	\$26.57		
Gill Protective	\$869.25		
Benevolent Society	\$2,527.45		
<b>TOTAL LIBRARY FUNDS</b>	<b>\$23,650.27</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Bank of Western Massachusetts</b>	<b>Bal. 7/1/06</b>	<b>Income &amp; Int.</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Stabilization Fund	\$145,327.61	\$7,516.84	\$36,451.00
General Funds	\$723.21	\$36.08	
Unemployment	\$29,187.74	\$6,666.92	
Recreation Revolving	\$6,742.58	\$11,343.00	\$18,622.67
Sewer Loan	\$68,774.49	\$3,430.50	



### TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS (Continued)

NAME	Bal. 7/1/06	Income	Expense
Quintus Allen	\$11,052.34	\$1,139.06	\$750.00
Payroll / Vender Account	(\$10,912.12)	\$3,506,148.70	\$3,498,424.47
Money Market	\$919,292.32	\$266,499.08	\$698,978.03
Collector's	\$53,264.20	\$1,553,959.00	\$1,592,722.52
<b>Webster Bank</b>			
Money Market	\$866.67	\$62.23	
Stabilization	\$475.13	\$24.63	
<b>MMDT</b>			
Rehab Account	\$20,798.27	\$1,128.46	
Arts Lottery	\$1,007.88	\$54.70	
General Funds	\$1,695.77	\$92.01	
<b>BANK FUNDS</b>	\$1,248,296.09	\$5,358,101.21	\$5,845,948.69
<b>Total General Fund Accounts</b>	<b>\$1,309,958.98</b>	<b>\$5,358,101.21</b>	<b>\$5,849,135.96</b>

**COMBINED BALANCE SHEET  
ALL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2007**

<u>ASSETS</u>	General Fund	Special Revenues	Capital Projects	Trust & Agency	Long-Term Debt
Cash, Petty	75.00				
Cash, Pooled	523,839.68	272,932.23	2,900.93	259,784.70	
2007 Personal Property	1,061.96				
2006 Personal Property	178.23				
2005 Personal Property	260.17				
2004 Personal Property	76.59				
Prior Years	899.04				
Total Personal Property	2,475.99				
2007 Real Estate	57,272.95				
2006 Real Estate	10,300.49				
2005 Real Estate	5,298.35				
2004 Real Estate	754.84				
Prior Year	127.80				
Total Real Estate	73,754.43				
2007 Allow for Abate/Exempt	2,268.75				
2006 Allow for Abate/Exempt	-2,078.81				
2005 Allow for Abate/Exempt	-14,200.39				
2004 Allow for Abate/Exempt	-5,622.43				
Prior Years	-2,076.62				
Total Allow for Abate/Exempt	-21,709.50				
Tax Liens	103,844.74				
Tax Possessions	8,844.57				
2007 Motor Vehicle Excise	8,670.24				
2006 Motor Vehicle Excise	1,303.41				
2005 Motor Vehicle Excise	2,591.91				
2004 Motor Vehicle Excise	1,325.34				
Prior Year	21,577.15				
Total Motor Vehicle Excise	35,468.05				

<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenues</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>
Farm Animal Excise	3,951.50		
Boat Excise	1,159.00		
Sewer Charges		16,064.72	
Sewer Liens		-195.89	
Sewer Tax Titles		3,079.82	
Due from Stabilization	36,451.00		
Utility Deposit	545.00		
Snow Loan not yet due		2,156.12	
Highway Grants Receivable		7,195.00	
To Be Provided-Long Term Debt			
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>768,699.46</b>	<b>301,232.00</b>	<b>2,900.93</b>

<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenues</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>
Warrants Payable	61,784.74		
Accounts Payable	1,030.00		
Accrued Payroll	12,096.49		
Prepaid Real Estate Taxes	0.00		
Payroll Withholdings	2,711.78		
Def.Rev - Property & RE Tax	54,520.92		
Def.Rev - Tax Liens	103,844.74		
Def.Rev - Motor Vehicle Excise	35,468.05		
Def.Rev.- Tax Possession	8,844.57		
Def.Rev.- Farm Animal Excise	3,951.50		
Def Rev - Boat Excise	1,159.00		
Def.Rev. - Loans not yet due		2,156.12	
Def.Rev. Sewer Liens		-195.89	
Def.Rev. Sewer Charges		16,064.72	
Def.Rev. Sewer Tax Title		3,079.82	
Due to General Fund			
Bonds Payable-Town Garage			
Bonds Payable-Septic Trust			
BAN Payable			245,000.00
Revolving Police			
Deputy Tax Collector			
Town Clerk's Fees			
Due to State - Fish/Wildlife			
Due to State - Firearms			
Due to County - Dog Officer			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>285,411.79</b>	<b>21,104.77</b>	<b>245,000.00</b>

<b><u>FUND EQUITY</u></b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenues</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>
Res for future dept exclusion	15,763.41		
Overlay Res for FY08	16,330.00		
Free Cash to lower tax rate	194,268.00		
Reserve for FY08 Expense	23,451.00		
Reserve for Encumbrances	71,523.98		
Undesignated Fund Balance	161,951.28		
Riverside Sewer District		109,094.13	
Grant Account Balances		33,068.99	
Donation/Gift Accounts		19,828.42	
Rehab Loan Paybacks		28,441.01	
Cultural Council		5,102.86	
Recreation Revolving		-538.09	
Dog Revolving Fund		1,292.54	
Trash Sticker		6,687.55	
Wetlands Protection Fund		970.68	
Road Machinery Fund		16,484.37	
Sale of Cemetary Lots		7,093.26	
Oil & Gas Inspections		220.00	
Sale of Real Estate		1,000.00	
Cemetary Survey Maps		3,832.69	
FB Marimante Land Purchase			-242,099.07
Septic Loan Fund Balance		47,548.82	
Design for Sewer Betterment			
Stabilization			
Unemployment Trust			
FB Quintas Allen			
Cemetary Trust - Non-expend			
Cemetary Trust - Expendable			
Library Trust - Non-expend			
Library Trust - Expendable			
<b>TOTAL FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>483,287.67</b>	<b>280,127.23</b>	<b>-242,099.07</b>

**TREASURER'S SUMMARY**

<b>TREASURER'S SUMMARY FY 2007</b>			
<b>WARRANTS 7/1/06 - 6/30/07</b>		<b>RECEIPTS 7/1/06 - 6/30/07</b>	
JULY	589,928.69		39,766.09
August	113,075.14		95,371.22
September	94,847.85		168,523.36
1st Quarter	<b>797,851.68</b>		<b>303,660.67</b>
October	476,761.52		582,519.98
November	154,240.24		85,078.89
December	471,212.89		369,484.22
2nd Quarter	<b>1,102,214.65</b>		<b>1,037,083.09</b>
January	92,745.85		649,346.50
February	114,220.80		125,426.43
March	486,065.60		211,879.92
3rd Quarter	<b>693,032.25</b>		<b>986,652.85</b>
April	652,879.09		477,012.65
May	150,859.81		339,077.71
June	109,311.22		148,002.81
4th Quarter	<b>913,050.12</b>		<b>964,093.17</b>
Total Warrants	<b>3,506,148.70</b>	Total Receipts	<b>3,291,489.70</b>
Beginning Balance 7-1-06		\$1,276,975.41	
Receipts		\$3,291,489.70	
Warrents		<b>(\$3,506,148.70)</b>	
Ending Balance		\$1,062,316.49	
<i>Respectfully Submitted,</i>			
<i>Veronica LaChance</i>			

## FY2007 GENERAL FUND REVENUE REPORT

	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Revenues</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
<u>Taxes</u>				
001-001-4110-000-000-0	Personal Property Taxes	30,807.22	34,350.06	3,542.84
001-001-4120-000-000-0	Real Estate Taxes	1,559,123.47	1,529,637.81	(29,485.66)
001-001-4142-000-000-0	Tax Liens Redeemed			
001-001-4150-000-000-0	Motor Vehicle Excise	188,500.00	157,009.98	(31,490.02)
001-001-4160-000-000-0	Boat Excise		2,227.00	2,227.00
001-001-4163-000-000-0	Classified Forest Excise	3,000.00	4,680.64	1,680.64
001-001-4164-000-000-0	Rollback Taxes		14,405.23	14,405.23
001-001-4170-000-000-0	Pen & Int on Prop Taxes	8,000.00	8,858.90	858.90
001-001-4171-000-000-0	Pen & Int on Excise Taxes		2,506.42	2,506.42
<u>Transfer Station</u>				
001-431-4242-000-000-0	Trash Sticker Sales	32,000.00	31,369.10	(630.90)
<u>Fees</u>				
001-146-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Collector	15,000.00	5,503.69	(9,496.31)
001-149-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Registry Markings		1,220.00	1,220.00
001-161-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Town Clerk		830.51	830.51
001-171-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Conservation Comm		101.13	101.13
001-175-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Planning Board		200.00	200.00

	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Revenues</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
001-210-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Police		647.30	647.30
001-220-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Fire Dept		620.00	620.00
001-433-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Transfer Station		21.00	21.00
001-512-4320-000-000-0	Fees-Health Board	15,000.00	5,570.00	5,570.00
			14,851.63	(148.37)
<u>Other Charges</u>				
001-001-4360-000-000-0	Rentals	4,200.00	8,796.50	4,596.50
<u>Licenses</u>				
001-122-4410-000-000-0	Licenses-Liquor		3,025.00	3,025.00
001-122-4420-000-000-0	Licenses-Other		1,389.50	1,389.50
<u>Permits</u>				
001-210-4450-000-000-0	Permits-Police Dept		925.00	925.00
001-241-4450-000-000-0	Permits-Building Insp	31,000.00	49,472.00	18,472.00
001-243-4450-000-000-0	Permits-Plumbing Insp		4,460.00	4,460.00
001-245-4450-000-000-0	Permits-Electrical Insp		13,660.00	13,660.00
		31,000.00	68,517.00	37,517.00
<u>State Revenue</u>				
001-001-4610-000-000-0	Reimb for Loss of Taxes	12,967.00	12,967.00	
001-001-4613-000-000-0	Veterans Abatements	1,175.00	1,525.00	350.00
001-001-4614-000-000-0	Surv Spouse Abatements		3,675.00	3,675.00



001-001-4616-000-000-0	Elderly Abatements	4,016.00	4,016.00		
001-001-4622-000-000-0	School Construction	191,285.00	191,285.00		
001-001-4661-000-000-0	Lottery Aid	259,945.00	259,945.00		
001-001-4680-000-000-0	Other State Revenue		656.00	656.00	
<u>Fines</u>					
001-001-4685-000-000-0	Fines - RMV	14,000.00	18,020.00	4,020.00	
001-001-4771-000-000-0	Fines - District Court		797.50	797.50	
<u>Other Revenue</u>					
001-001-4815-000-000-0	Sale of Fixed Assets				
001-001-4820-000-000-0	Earnings on Investments	10,148.00	18,374.37	8,226.37	
001-001-4830-000-000-0	NMH FRTA Reimbursement	-	5,343.00	5,343.00	
001-001-4840-000-000-0	Miscellaneous Revenue	6,984.00	2,346.39	(4,637.61)	
<u>Transfers</u>					
001-001-4971-000-000-0	Tr Fr Special Revenue	86,146.25	88,346.25	2,200.00	
001-001-4973-000-000-0	Tr Fr Capital Projects				
001-001-4974-000-000-0	Tr Fr Stabilization	13,000.00	13,000.00		
<u>Totals</u>		<u>2,471,296.94</u>	<u>2,501,921.28</u>	<u>30,624.34</u>	

**FY2007 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT**

	<u>Balance Forward</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
001-114-5100-000-000-0		160.63	22.82	183.45	183.45	0.00
001-122-5100-000-000-0		6,217.62	0.00	6,217.62	6,213.37	4.25
001-122-5400-000-000-0		3,505.00	0.00	3,505.00	3,502.93	2.07
001-123-5110-000-000-0		40,531.58	0.00	40,531.58	39,783.17	748.41
001-123-5120-000-000-0		0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	501.26	1,098.74
001-123-5400-000-000-0		800.00	0.00	800.00	751.84	48.16
001-131-5400-000-000-0		125.00	0.00	125.00	120.00	5.00
001-132-5400-000-000-0		2,500.00	-1,275.00	1,225.00	0.00	1,225.00
001-135-5100-000-000-0		20,655.00	0.00	20,655.00	20,655.00	0.00
001-135-5400-000-000-0		1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,047.11	152.89
001-135-5420-000-000-0		0.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	3,100.00	9,900.00

001-141-5400-000-000-0	Assessor's Expenses		2,340.00	1,275.00	3,615.00	3,606.94	8.06
001-141-5420-000-000-0	Assessor's Software		0.00	63,926.72	63,926.72	39,771.90	24,154.82
001-142-5400-000-000-0	Assessor's Revaluation		0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00
001-143-5400-000-000-0	Assessor's Legal Counsel		200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
001-145-5110-000-000-0	Treasurer's Salary		10,895.00	0.00	10,895.00	10,895.00	0.00
001-145-5400-000-000-0	Treasurer's Expenses		4,220.00	0.00	4,220.00	3,345.97	874.03
001-145-5410-000-000-0	Treasurer's Banking Service		150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
001-146-5110-000-000-0	Collector's Salary		14,344.25	0.00	14,344.25	14,344.25	0.00
001-146-5400-000-000-0	Collector's Expenses		6,022.00	-4.32	6,017.68	5,272.33	745.35
001-151-5400-000-000-0	Legal Expenses		4,000.00	1,000.00	5,000.00	4,368.05	631.95
001-155-5400-000-000-0	Computer/Software/Serv		3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	2,968.83	31.17
001-158-5400-000-000-0	Tax Title Expense		750.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00
001-161-5110-000-000-0	Clerk's Salary		10,419.68	0.00	10,419.68	10,419.68	0.00
001-161-5400-000-000-0	Clerk's Expenses		2,375.00	0.00	2,375.00	1,893.53	481.47
001-162-5400-000-000-0	Registrar/Election Expenses		3,300.00	0.00	3,300.00	2,063.23	1,236.77
001-162-5420-000-000-0	Voting Machine Purchase		0.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,000.00	200.00

		<u>Balance Forward</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
001-175-5400-000-000-0	Planning Board		745.00	0.00	745.00	388.39	356.61
001-176-5400-000-000-0	Zoning Bd of Appeals Expenses		500.00	0.00	500.00	471.22	28.78
001-192-5400-000-000-0	Town Hall Building		16,300.00	2,000.00	18,300.00	18,219.64	80.36
001-192-5410-000-000-0	Garage & Public Safety Bldg		14,990.00	0.00	14,990.00	14,770.92	219.08
001-192-5420-000-000-0	Town Bldg Repairs & Maint		0.00	5,357.57	5,357.57	2,272.00	3,085.57
001-192-5430-000-000-0	Riverside Municipal Bldg		8,675.00	1,500.00	10,175.00	9,895.09	279.91
001-193-5400-000-000-0	Property Insurance		48,500.00	0.00	48,500.00	46,644.76	1,855.24
001-199-5400-000-000-0	FRCOG Assessment		8,488.15	0.00	8,488.15	8,488.15	0.00
001-199-5410-000-000-0	FRCOG Fee for Service		1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	130.00	1,170.00
001-210-5400-000-000-0	Police Dept Expenses		172,250.00	0.00	172,250.00	170,211.69	2,038.31
001-210-5410-000-000-0	Regional Radio Assessment		1,624.00	0.00	1,624.00	1,624.00	0.00
001-220-5400-000-000-0	Fire Dept Expenses		66,100.00	0.00	66,100.00	63,393.84	2,706.16

001-291-5400-000-000-0	Civil Defense Program		400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
001-292-5110-000-000-0	Animal Control Officer		800.00	0.00	800.00	677.85	122.15	
001-292-5400-000-000-0	Dog Fund		800.00	0.00	800.00	154.00	646.00	
001-294-5400-000-000-0	Tree & Forestry Expenses		4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,612.39	387.61	
001-310-5400-000-000-0	Gill/Montague School District		1,165,805.00	23,100.00	1,188,905.00	1,154,731.99	34,173.01	
001-320-5400-000-000-0	Franklin Cnty Tech School		96,462.00	0.00	96,462.00	96,462.00	0.00	
001-422-5400-000-000-0	Highway Road Maintenance		256,949.21	-3,022.82	253,926.39	228,789.25	25,137.14	
001-422-5410-000-000-0	Road Maint/Construction		0.00	1,520.18	1,520.18	0.00	1,520.18	
001-424-5400-000-000-0	Bridge & Street Lighting		8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	6,214.13	1,785.87	
001-431-5400-000-000-0	Solid Waste Districe		2,634.00	0.00	2,634.00	2,634.00	0.00	
001-433-5410-000-000-0	Solid Waste Removal		67,050.00	0.00	67,050.00	62,721.51	4,328.49	
001-440-5400-000-000-0	Riverside Sewer System		55,577.00	0.00	55,577.00	51,797.71	3,779.29	

		<u>Balance Forward</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
001-491-5400-000-000-0	Cemetery Commission		2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	1,592.99	907.01
001-491-5410-000-000-0	Cemetery Surveyor Maps		0.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	0.00
001-512-5110-000-000-0	Bd of Health Salaries		6,883.83	0.00	6,883.83	5,566.48	1,317.35
001-512-5400-000-000-0	Bd of Health Expenses		500.00	0.00	500.00	285.00	215.00
001-512-5410-000-000-0	Regional Health Program		7,096.00	0.00	7,096.00	7,096.00	0.00
001-541-5400-000-000-0	COA Expenses		6,022.00	0.00	6,022.00	5,963.02	58.98
001-543-5400-000-000-0	Veterans Agent Expenses		3,245.00	0.00	3,245.00	3,245.00	0.00
001-543-5410-000-000-0	Veterans Benefits		4,000.00	-2,200.00	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
001-610-5110-000-000-0	Library Salaries		9,946.36	4.32	9,950.68	9,950.68	0.00
001-610-5400-000-000-0	Library Expenses		6,300.00	0.00	6,300.00	6,300.00	0.00
001-634-5400-000-000-0	Recreation Comm Expenses		3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00	3,468.50	131.50
001-691-5400-000-000-0	Historical Commission		860.00	0.00	860.00	705.81	154.19

001-710-5910-000-000-0	Garage Construction Loan	18,644.00	0.00	18,644.00	18,644.00	0.00	0.00
001-710-5930-000-000-0	Principal-Fire Truck	191,285.00	0.00	191,285.00	175,308.81	15,976.19	
001-752-5900-000-000-0	Interest-Temporary Loans	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	19,091.78	908.22	
001-820-5640-000-000-0	Air Pollution District	296.00	0.00	296.00	296.00	0.00	
001-820-5646-000-000-0	RMV Marking Surchg	900.00	0.00	900.00	2,420.00	-1,520.00	
001-820-5663-000-000-0	Reg Transit Authority	6,984.00	0.00	6,984.00	6,984.00	0.00	
001-911-5400-000-000-0	Franklin County Retirement	57,965.00	0.00	57,965.00	57,965.00	0.00	
001-913-5400-000-000-0	Unemployment Insurance	2,550.00	2,550.00	5,100.00	5,100.00	0.00	
001-914-5400-000-000-0	Group Insurance	82,000.00	700.00	82,700.00	82,293.91	406.09	
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>139,701.97</u>	<u>2,761,098.91</u>	<u>2,596,913.79</u>	<u>164,185.12</u>	

## FY2007 OTHER FUND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Opening Bal</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expendi- tures</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
<b><u>Revolving Funds</u></b>				
Wetlands Protection Fund	708.18	262.50	0.00	970.68
Oil & Gas Inspections	100.00	120.00	0.00	220.00
Recreation Revolving Fund	6,742.58	11,342.00	-18,622.67	-538.09
Dog Revolving Fund	0.00	1,390.00	-97.46	1,292.54
Trash Stickers	37,449.55	0.00	-30,762.00	6,687.55
<b><u>Receipts Reserved for Approp.</u></b>				
Sale of Cemetery Lots	9,353.26	0.00	-2,260.00	7,093.26
Sale of Real Estate	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
County Dog Fund	3,832.69	0.00	0.00	3,832.69
Road Machinery Fund	16,484.37	0.00	0.00	16,484.37
PEG Access Fund	4,509.54	5,783.53	-2,262.22	8,030.85
PEG Access Capital Fund	1,200.00	0.00	-551.51	648.49
Police Donations Fund	1,277.08	0.00	0.00	1,277.08
Library Donations	717.73	1,037.90	0.00	1,755.63
Friends of Slate Donations	1,051.50	0.00	-978.98	72.52
Ballfield Donations	1,516.58	25.00	0.00	1,541.58
Historical Comm Donations	856.20	0.00	0.00	856.20
Bridge St Anchorage Sign	320.70	0.00	0.00	320.70
Newsletter Donations	210.53	507.00	-556.05	161.48
NMH Gifts	7,321.52	0.00	-5,940.42	1,381.10
Vt Yankee Emer Mgmt Fund	8,537.27	4,415.00	-9,413.58	3,538.69
Rehab Loan Paybacks	28,989.04	1,128.46	-1,676.49	28,441.01
Septic Grants	42,273.28	7,567.54	-2,292.00	47,548.82
Renaissance Donation	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Ins Proceeds Under 25K	94.10	0.00	0.00	94.10
<b><u>State &amp; Federal Grants</u></b>				
Dare Grant-Police	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Comm Policing Grant	8,989.41	44,923.38	-27,224.12	26,688.67
Gov Highway Safety Grant	-12,962.23	16,587.10	-4,332.39	-707.52



	<u>Opening Bal</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expendi- tures</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
Library State Aid	1,271.80	2,823.70	-3,875.15	220.35
Cultural Council	3,743.16	4,054.70	-2,695.00	5,102.86
Fire Dept SAFE Grant	1,811.98	3,456.20	-1,260.90	4,007.28
Fire Dept Equip Grant	0.00	3,900.00	0.00	3,900.00
Volunteer Fire Asst Grant	0.00	2,960.00	-4,960.00	-2,000.00
FEMA Fire Asst Grant	0.00	1,032.00	-1,032.00	0.00
MRF Recycling Grant	925.70	0.00	0.00	925.70
WWTP Fund	102,670.52	62,569.86	-56,146.25	109,094.13
Marimante Land Purchase	-242,099.07	0.00	0.00	-242,099.07
<b><u>Trust Funds</u></b>				
Quintus Allen Fund	11,052.34	1,139.06	-750.00	11,441.40
Cemetery Fund	37,923.24	1,937.84	-3,972.27	35,888.81
Library Trust Funds	22,259.20	1,179.69	0.00	23,438.89
Unemployment Fund	29,187.74	6,666.92	0.00	35,854.66
Stabilization Fund	145,327.61	7,516.84	-36,451.00	116,393.45
Off Duty Police Detail	-201.60	73,428.85	-73,227.25	0.00
Firearm ID Cards	-37.50	2,100.00	-2,650.00	-587.50
Town Clerk Fees	31.79	0.00	0.00	31.79
State Wildlife Permits	223.20	630.35	-642.35	211.20
Trash Sticker Commissions	0.00	1,448.90	-1,448.90	0.00
Deputy Collector Fees	343.00	4,341.00	-4,080.00	604.00
Due to County Dog Officer	52.50	15.75	-11.25	57.00

## FY2007 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

REAL ESTATE		
2007 Committed	1,585,474.39	
Refunds	5,290.41	
Collected		1,493,344.61
Abated		27,431.27
Other		(6,592.63)
Uncollected		15,494.25
2006 Committed	1,641,081.38	
Refunds	26,768.64	
Collected		1,644,605.17
Abatements		29,920.16
Other		(6,397.99)
Uncollected		6,369.23
2005 Committed	1,572,634.64	
Refunds	34,434.30	
Collected		1,572,604.35
Abatements		31,095.86
Other		(4,807.25)
Uncollected		5,198.36
2004 Committed	1,589,937.16	
Refunds	13,650.54	
Collected		1,573,846.94
Abatements		18,237.54
Other		(6,589.00)
Uncollected		865.23

SEWER USE FEES		
2007 Committed	61,446.01	
Collected		55,245.30
Abated		
Refunds		
Added to Real Estate		6,262.83
Uncollected		(62.12)
2006 Committed	65,044.83	
Collected		58,726.92
Abated		
Refunds	6.83	
Added to Real Estate		6,548.23
Uncollected		(223.49)
2005 Committed	64,587.29	
Collected		59,802.58
Added to Real Estate		5,075.51
Refunds	113.59	
Uncollected		(117.21)

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE		
2007 Committed	133,765.15	
Refunds	1,396.13	
Collected		123,852.08
Abated		2,996.55
Adjusted		
Uncollected		8,312.65
2006 Outstanding	11,644.93	
Committed	17,508.36	
Refunds	1,053.71	
Collected		27,677.05
Abated		1,288.91
Adjusted		
To be Refunded		
Uncollected		1,241.04
2005 Outstanding	7,737.98	
Committed	151.25	
Refunds	29.50	
Collected		5,208.04
Abated		72.07
Adjusted		
Uncollected		2,188.79
2004 Outstanding	2,267.64	
Refunds	198.33	
Collected		1,228.80
Abated		198.33
Adjusted		
Uncollected		1,038.84
2003 Outstanding	108.36	
Collected		5.00
Uncollected		103.36

PERSONAL PROPERTY		
2007 Committed	30,807.24	
Refunds		8.12
Collected		30,245.93
Abatements		(8.12)
Uncollected		805.09
2006 Committed	35,542.01	
Refunds		30.74
Collected		35,245.63
Abatements		(67.38)
Other		9.00
Uncollected		268.74
2005 Committed	31,035.32	
Refunds		546.92
Collected		31,128.97
Abatements		(193.08)
Uncollected		264.73
2004 Committed	44,644.15	
Refunds		92.00
Collected		44,567.56
Uncollected		168.61

<b>FARM ANIMALS</b>		
2004 Committed	343.50	
Collected		
Uncollected		343.50
2003 Committed	631.50	
Collected		
Uncollected		631.50
2002 Committed	906.00	
Collected		631.00
Uncollected		275.00
2001 Outstanding	6/30/01	841.50
2000 Outstanding	6/30/00	608.50
1999 Outstanding	6/30/99	289.00
1998 Outstanding	6/30/98	282.00
1997 Outstanding	6/30/97	331.50
1996 Outstanding	6/30/96	347.50
<b>FOREST PRODUCTS EXCISE</b>		
2007 Committed	3,598.72	
Refunds		
Collected		3,598.72
Uncollected		
2006 Committed	224.00	
Collected		224.00
Uncollected		
Boat Excise Tax		
2007 Committed	3,386.00	
Refunds	281.00	
Collected		2,227.00
Uncollected		1,159.00
Other		

## TOWN CLERK FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007

	<u>Fees Collected</u>
Birth Certificates	\$125.00
Death Certificates	\$65.00
Marriage Certificates	\$55.00
Marriage Intentions	\$45.00
Special Permits	\$75.00
Site Plan Reviews	\$75.00
Variance	\$200.00
ANR	\$75.00
Fuel Storage	\$40.00
Zoning Bylaws/Street Lists	\$30.00
Business Certificates	\$100.00
Raffle Permits (1)	\$20.00
Dog Fees	<u>\$1,335.00</u>
	\$2,240.00

**TOWN MEETING  
MINUTES AND  
ELECTION  
RESULTS**



**FOR THE  
CALENDAR YEAR  
2007**



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**Special Town Meeting  
May 3, 2007**

**1043 Voters in Gill**

**67 Voters Present**

**Motion 1:** Move to see if the Town of Gill will amend the Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with respect to the formation of a regional school district by deleting the first sentences of Section III – Location of Regional District Schools which now states:

Children in grades seven through twelve shall attend schools within the geographic limits of the School District, and within a radius of five miles of the Montague-Gill Bridge. Children in grades kindergarten through six shall attend schools in their towns of residents.

And, changing the stated language to read as follows:

Children in grades six through twelve shall attend schools within the geographic limits of the School District, and within a radius of five miles of the Montague-Gill Bridge. Children in grades kindergarten through five shall attend schools in their town of residence.

Or, take any other action relative thereto.

**Defeated – YES 14                      NO 53**

**Motion 2:** Move to see if the Town of Gill will amend the Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with respect to the formation of a regional school district by adding a new third sentence to Section III – Location of Regional District Schools to state as follows:

Should parents/guardians of children grades kindergarten through five wish to send their children

to schools not in their town of residence (but within the District), intra-district choice may be made available, contingent upon and consistent with District policy.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Motion to Pass over – Passed Unanimously**

**Motion 3:** Move to see if the Town of Gill will amend the Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with respect to the formation of a regional school district by adding a new third sentence to Section III – Location of Regional District Schools to state as follows:

Should parents/guardians of children grades kindergarten through six wish to send their children to schools not in their town of residence (but within the District), **intra-district choice** may be made available, contingent upon and consistent with District policy.

Or, take any other action relative thereto.

**Passed by Majority – YES 48      No 11**

**Article 4:** Move to see if the Town of Gill will amend the Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with respect to the formation of a regional school district by adding the following wording to the end of Section IV(D) Apportionment of Capital Costs.

Intra-district choice shall not affect the method of apportionment of capital costs stated above (i.e. the calculations above shall be made as if intra-district choice has not occurred).

Or, take any other action relative thereto.

**Passed Unanimously**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 P.M.  
A True Copy. Attest:  
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Town Clerk

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 7, 2007

**Registered Voters in Gill 1043**

**71 Voters Attending**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Moderator, Ray Steele at the upper level of the Gill Town Hall.**

**Article 1:** Move to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed-Unanimously**

**Article 2:** Move the Town vote to elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year, or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed-Unanimously**

**Article 3:** Move the Town vote to accept a gift of land containing an area of approximately 516.77 square feet as shown as lot D on a plan of land located in Gill, Massachusetts prepared for Gary and Doreen Stevens dated December 6, 2006, or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed -Unanimously**

**Article 4:** Move the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 39, Section 23D, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, regarding attendance requirements by municipal board, committee and commission members for voting disqualification in one or more types of adjudicatory hearings or, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Passed - Unanimously**

**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 2007 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 or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed - Unanimously**

**Article 6:** Move the Town vote to reauthorize a revolving account pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be deposited and expended to purchase dog tags, pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other expenses related to dog control under the direction of the Town Clerk, for which total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1st next will be limited to \$2000, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year.

**Passed - Unanimously**

**Article 7:** Move the Town vote to fix salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed - Unanimously**

**Article 8:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen and 20/100 Dollars (\$2,791,415.20\*), to fund those amounts listed under FY2008 REQUESTED in the FY2008 Omnibus budget which defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, and provides for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year, Three Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$300,000.00) of the Two Million Seven Hundred Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen and 20/100 Dollars (\$2,791,415.20\*), which includes appropriation for school assessments are contingent upon an override ballot question.

**Passed - Majority**

**Article 9:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00\*) to add to the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account.

**Passed - Majority**

**Article 10:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00\*) for the Treasurer to proceed with the taking of land held in tax title.

**Passed - Unanimously**

**Article 11:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Two Thousand Two Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,200.00\*) for payment of the second and final installment for purchase a voting machine and maintenance contract for the Town Clerk's office.

**Passed - Unanimously**

**Article 12:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$140,000.00\*) to purchase a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department, said purchase contingent on a capital exclusion ballot question.

**Passed - Majority**

**Article 13:** Move the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement for the lease to purchase a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department, said lease agreement to be for a term not to exceed five (5) years, and further to vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds Forty Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$40,000\*) for the first installment of said lease, contingent on a override ballot question.

**Motion to Pass Over – Passed - Unanimously**

**Article 14:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, or transfer from available funds the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$35,000.00\*) to allow employment of a full-time firefighter, contingent on an override ballot question.

**Motion to Pass Over – Passed – Unanimously**

**Motion to Pass Over Articles 15 through 18. To be continued to June 11, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.**

**Passed – Unanimously**

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:17 P.M.**

**Continuation.....7:00 P.M. June 11, 2007**

**Article 15:** Move the Town vote to transfer from excess overlay surplus the sum of Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$16,330.00\*) for the Gill-Montague Regional School District to further update curriculum and instruction for all students, K-12.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 16:** Move the Town vote to transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of Seven Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$700.00\*) for use at the Gill Elementary School.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 17:** Move the Town vote to authorize and direct the Assessors to take the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight and 00/100 Dollars (194,268.00\*) from unappropriated funds to be used to stabilize the tax levy for fiscal year 2008, or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 18:** Move the Town to vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, or transfer from available funds, the sum of Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight and 00/100 Dollars (\$14,268.00\*) for the stabilization fund, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion to Pass Over – Passed Unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.**

**A true copy. Attest:**

**Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Town Clerk**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
Monday, May 21, 2007**

**1041 Registered Voters**

**Participating Voters - 301**

Selectman/Sewer Commissioner – Nancy Griswold	252 Votes
Board of Assessors – Peter Conway	254 Votes
Cemetery Commissioner – Beverly Demars	284 Votes
Board of Health – Douglas Edson	274 Votes
Library Trustee – Elisabeth Greenough	276 Votes
Treasurer – Veronica LaChance	266 Votes

Question: Shall the Town of Gill be allowed to assess an additional Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the town's omnibus budget for operation of municipal government and public schools for the fiscal year beginning July First Two Thousand Seven?                      **Yes 75                      No 208**

Question: Shall the Town of Gill be allowed to assess an additional One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand (\$125,000.00) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purchase of a new single axle dump truck including snow plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department, for the fiscal year beginning July first Two Thousand Seven?                      **Yes 104                      No 190**

**A true copy.**

**Attest:**

**Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Town Clerk  
Town of Gill**

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

June 11, 2007

**1037 Registered Voters**

**66 Voters Present**

The Meeting was brought to order at 7:30 P.M. by the Moderator, Ray Steele in the upper level of the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road.

**Motion 1:** Move the Town of Gill vote to rescind Article 7 of the FY2008 Annual Town Meeting meant to fix the salaries of the Town Officers

**Passed-Majority.**

**Motion 2:** Move the Town of Gill vote to rescind Article 8 of the FY2008 Annual Town Meeting

**Passed-Unanimously.**

**Motion 3:** Move the Town of Gill vote to fix and appropriate funds for the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows.

Constable(s) – each posting	\$16.37
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	102.20
Special Town Meeting	21.11
Selectboard – Chair	2,266.88
Second & Third Member, each	2,060.88
Town Clerk	10,706.23
Tax Collector	15,959.48
From Sewer Receipts	579.25
Treasurer	13,299.41
Assessors – Chair	2,721.95
Second & Third Member, each	2,480.43
Board of Health – Chair	1,222.75
Second & Third Member, each	1,119.74
Registrars – three members, each	50.84
Town Clerk	81.43

**Passed-Majority**



**Motion 4:** Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate a total of \$1,309,783.17, those amounts listed under FY2008 REQUESTED in the FY2008 Omnibus Option 1, to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and inter-est, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year, Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$23,451.00) to be transferred from the stabilization fund for payment of the Mariamante Loan and the remaining One Million Two Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and 17/100 (\$1,286,332.17) by taxation.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion 5:** Move the Town of Gill vote to raise and appropriate One Million Two Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Three Dollars and 00/100 (\$1,283,903.00) for it's assessed share of the Gill-Montague Regional School District Budget, including debt.

**Passed Majority**

**Motion 6:** Move the Town of Gill vote to accept a local option statute, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5L that would allow Massachusetts National guardsmen or reservists deployed outside the state, or their dependents, up to 180 days after that service to pay their property taxes without interest or penalties.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion 7:** Move the Town of Gill vote to transfer funds from available funds a sum of money to purchase an appraisal report on land the company owns in the Town of Gill from FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FKA Northeast Utilities Generation Company).

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 8:** Move the Town of Gill to transfer Fifteen Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$15,000.00) from the Highway equipment fund and to raise and appropriate Thirty-One Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$31,000.00) contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override to purchase a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department to cover borrowing costs associated with said purchase including payment and any interest for the first installment and a deposit in

the purchase of a single-axle dump truck with plow, sander and associated equipment for the highway department and to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow for said purchase for a term of not less than five years in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 7.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 9:** Move the Town of Gill vote to declare Town owned land as shown on Assessors Map 226, Lot 31 on Barney Hale Road available for disposition.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.**

**A True Copy.**

**Attest.**

**Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Town Clerk**

**Gill-Montague Regional School District  
Regional District Meeting  
July 31, 2007, 7 p.m.  
Turners Falls High School Theatre**

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Raymond Godin.

The official meeting notice and officer's return were read.

Preliminary motions (attached) for the meeting were presented and voted, passing without debate.

Moved by E. Brown and seconded by M. Robinson.

To see if the registered voters in the Town of Gill and the Town of Montague will approve the amended regional school district budget in the amount of \$16,426,901 or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Mary Kociela moved and M. Robinson seconded to amend the motion to \$16,256,901. The amendment was accepted by majority vote.

The main motion failed by a counted vote of 186 no to 71 yes.

Moved by Jeff Singleton and seconded by M. Robinson:

To see if the registered voters in the Town of Gill and the Town of Montague will approve a budget in the amount of \$16,180,901 for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

The motion passed on a counted vote of 132 yes and 130 no.

Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Hamlett, Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Schools*