

Gill Massachusetts



2009 Annual Report

Cover picture: Pond on Ben Hale Road, courtesy of Dan Sachs

ANNUAL REPORT of Officers and Committees



*Photo: A freshly hatched monarch butterfly spreading its wings on the asters at
Town Hall*

2009

NEW SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Until now, the annual town report contained reports from the financial departments on a fiscal year basis (July through June), but from all other departments, boards, and committees on a calendar year basis (January through December). This created more work for departments to reorganize the information they report and made it difficult to compare text descriptions of a department's activities for the year with the financial reports for that department. At a special town meeting in September 2009, residents voted to address this discrepancy by making the annual town report cover the fiscal year period.

This report covers town activities from January 2009 through June 2009. The fiscal reports cover all of Fiscal Year 2009, which is July 2008 through June 2009. In the 2010 edition of the annual report all of the information will cover activity from Fiscal Year 2010: July 2009 through June 2010.

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FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

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

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Board of Selectmen*	Leland E. Stevens (1/1/09—5/18/09)	2009
	Nancy A. Griswold, Chair 2008—2009	2010
	Ann H. Banash, Chair 2009—2010	2011
	John R. Ward (5/19/09—)	2012
Board of Assessors	Peter Conway	2010
	Ray Purington, Chair	2011
	Nancy Griswold	2012
Board of Health	Douglas A. Edson, Chair	2010
	Edward W. Galipault, Jr.	2011
	Randy P. Crochier, Secretary	2012
Cemetery Commission	Beverly L. Demars (1/1/09—4/16/09)	2010
	Ann Marie Klein (4/27/09—)	2010
	Carrie R. Stevens, Chair	2011
	Patricia Haigis	2012

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Constables	Fred O. Chase, II	2011
	Fred O. Chase, III	2011
	Craig D. Gaudry	2011
Field Drivers	Edward J. Golembeski	2011
	Clifford C. Hatch	2011
Gill-Montague Regional School Committee	Valeria Smith (1/1/09—5/18/09)	2009
	Sandra Brown	2010
	Sorrel Hatch	2011
	Jennifer Waldron (5/19/09—)	2012
Library Trustees	Elisabeth Greenough	2010
	Ann C. Perry	2011
	Ellen A. Johnson, Chair	2012
Moderator	Raymond F. Steele	2012
Tax Collector	Veronica A. LaChance	2011
Town Clerk	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2012
Treasurer	Veronica A. LaChance	2010
Tree Warden	Ernest M. Hastings	2012

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

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
911 Coordinator	Joseph Elliott, Jr.	2010
Accountant	Brian Morton, Accounting Program—Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2010

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Assistant Town Clerk	Doreen Stevens	2010
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2010
Assistant Tree Warden	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	2010
Board of Registrars	Richard Peller	2010
	Allan Adie, Sr.	2011
	Kathleen Augustine	2012
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2012
Building Committee	Ernest Hastings, Chair	2010
	Roger Augustine	2010
	Kyle Maurer	2010
Cable Advisory Committee	Richard James	2010
	Leland E. Stevens, Chair	2010
Central Franklin County Veterans' District Representative	Patricia Haigis	2010
Conservation Commission	Keith Lilly	2010
	Anthony Mathews, Chair	2010
	Joanne Flagg	2011
	Ted Castro-Santos	2012
	Kenneth Sprankle	2012
Council on Aging	Renee Jenkins	2010
	Audrey Ambo	2011
	Beverly L. Demars, Chair	2011
	Joseph Naida	2012

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN *(Continued)*

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Cultural Council	Steve Damon	2010
	Lynn Nichols	2010
	Emily Samuels	2010
	Jocelyn Castro-Santos	2011
	Elizabeth Gardner	2011
	Kathleen Raczynski	2011
Election Workers	Helen Chappell	2010
	Barbara Elliott	2010
	Sorrel Hatch	2010
	Pamela Hubert	2010
	Renee Jenkins	2010
	Geraldine Johnson	2010
	Nancy Krejmas	2010
	Donald LaChance (Election Worker, Election Constable, Special Election Officer)	2010
	Raymond Moore	2010
	Joseph Naida (Election Worker, Special Election Officer)	2010
	Lorri Parody	2010
Edith Schechterle	2010	
John Schechterle	2010	
Emergency Management Director	Gene Beaubien	2010
Fire Chief	Gene Beaubien	
Fire Dept. Board of Engineers	Gene Beaubien	2010
	Michael Crochier	2010
	Jason Edson	2010
	Stuart Elliott	2010
	Christopher Goodhind	2010
	Scott Goodhind	2010
	Noah Pack	2010
Steven Peters	2010	

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Fire Dept. Board of Engineers (Cont'd)	Kenneth Sears	2010
Firefighters	Steven Connell	2010
	Lucas Gray	2010
	Michael Hastings	2010
	William Kimball	2010
	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	2010
	Mitchell LaClaire, Jr.	2010
	Paul Marguet	2010
	Michael Olson	2010
	Greg Parody	2010
	Travis St. Peter	2010
Hillary Szteliga	2010	
Joseph Whittier	2010	
Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Representative	Tracy Rogers	2010
Inspector of Buildings	James Hawkins	2010
Local Building Insp.	James Cerone	2010
Electrical Insp.	James Slowinski	2010
Plumbing/Gas Insp.	Andrew French	2010
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Representative	Arthur Cohen	2010
Franklin Regional Transit Authority Representative	James Poulsen	2010

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Fred W. Wells Trust	Frank J. Cutting	2010
Hazardous Waste Coordinator	Douglas Edson	2010
Highway Superintendent	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	
Historical Commission	Stuart Elliott	2010
	Richard French	2010
	Pamela Shoemaker	2010
	Cristin Carpenter, Chair	2011
	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2011
	Robert Perry	2011
	Beverly L. Demars	2012
Junior Firefighters	Luke Ketchum	2010
	Paul Sweeney	2010
	Alden Winn	2010
Memorial Committee	Gary Bourbeau	2010
	Merri Bourbeau	2010
	Chester Kuzontkoski, Chair	2010
	Douglas Smith	2010
	Elaine Smith	2010
Planning Board	Richard French	2010
	Shirley Flagg	2011
	Douglas Smith, Chair	2011
	Thomas Storrow	2012
Police Department	David W. Hastings, Chief	2010
	Christopher J. Redmond, Sergeant	2010
	Melinda A. Shearer, Matron	2010
	Jason R. Bassett, Officer	2010
	Robert A. Hunter, Officer	2010
	Peter J. Lapachinski, Officer	2010
	Paul J. Marguet, Officer	2010
Nikol L. Schreiber, Officer	2010	

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN (*Continued*)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Police Department	Scott M. Waldron, Officer	2010
	Robert A. Whittier, Officer	2010
Right to Know Officer	Mitchell LaClaire, Sr.	2010
Town Administrator	Tracy Rogers	
Town Counsel	Donna MacNicol of MacNicol & Tombs, LLC	2010
Veterans' Agent	Leo Parent	2010
Veterans' Grave Officer	William Huber	2010
Zoning Board of Appeals	Allen Tupper Brown	2010
	Robert Perry	2010
	Raymond Purington	2011
	William Burnham	2012
	Suzanne Smiley, Chair	2012



APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Animal Inspector	Ernest Hastings	2010
Burial Agent	Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	2010

APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Agricultural Commission	Shirley Flagg	2010
	Kathy Litchfield	2011
	Steve Damon, Chair	2012
	Richard French	2012
	Bruce Yukl	2012
Finance Committee	Veronica A. LaChance	2010
	Valeria Smith	2010
	Joseph Williams	2010
	Alden Booth	2011
	Claire Chang	2011
	Chris Collins	2011
	James Poulsen	2011
	Allen Tupper Brown, Chair	2012
	Leland Stevens	2012
Franklin County Technical School Committee	Clifford C. Hatch	2010
Personnel Committee	<i>Bd. of Selectmen</i> Nancy Griswold	2010
	<i>Finance Comm.</i> Joseph Williams	2010
	<i>Secretary (no vote)</i> Tracy Rogers	2010
	<i>Employee Rep.</i> George Emery	2012
	<i>Member-at-large</i> Paul Nowill	2012
	<i>Member-at-large</i> Kristi Tognarelli	2012
Recreation Committee	Rose Levasseur	2010
	Charlene Vaughn	2011
	Nathan G. Duda, Chair	2012

OTHER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
Assistant Librarian	Kimber Sprankle
Assistant Treasurer	Ellen Hastings
Clerical Assistant for the Board of Health, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals	Bonnie Welcome
Custodian	James Connelly
Highway Foreman	Edward Ambo, Jr.
Highway Mechanic/Operator	George Emery
Highway Part-Time Help	Ernest M. Hastings
Slate Memorial Library Director	Jocelyn Castro-Santos
Volunteers	Steven Connell Donald LaChance Carrie Stevens James Tomasi

**2009
GILL VITAL STATISTICS**

TOWN POPULATION ON MAY 4, 2009 = 1,459

BIRTHS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Parents</i>
May 28	Lydian Orla Skiathitis	Morgan Sawyer (Coldwell) Skiathitis Janoov Tovia Skiathitis
June 12	Adja Yacine Diaw	Siga Thiombane Gorgui Ousane Diaw

MARRIAGES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
March 7	Travis G. Weeks Jessica Lynn George
May 23	Aleksei Petrovich Baraban Kelly Elisabeth Manning
May 23	Charlene May Vaughn John Lewis Woods, Jr.

DEATHS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
February 14	John A. Piskor
February 16	Peter L. Fisher, Sr.
February 19	Helen Louise Mackin
May 9	Dorothy J. Petrin
May 16	Angela Ann Galbraith

DEATHS (*Continued*)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Names</i>
May 24	Frederick B. Oakes
June 4	Cecile Annette Guilbault
June 9	Edward L. Smith, III
June 16	Nancy M. Williams

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

ANNUAL REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS,



Field on Franklin Road, courtesy of Dan Sachs

BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Selectboard continued its work this year to develop the Mariamante parcel at the corner of Main and West Gill roads. The Mariamante Steering Committee hired Tighe & Bond to conduct a feasibility and market study on the parcel to determine its best uses in the current market. Tighe & Bond presented their findings at the special town meeting in June. Their recommendation was to seek out light industrial developers, but some infrastructure work would be necessary to make the site more attractive (such as making water and sewer available). The Steering Committee will continue its work with Tighe & Bond, and with the Native American tribes who've shown interest in the property.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue conducted a Financial Management Review of the Town in February. The Review resulted in 25 recommendations to strengthen the financial procedures in place in the Town. The Selectboard, Finance Committee, Board of Assessors, and Collector-Treasurer have been working steadily to discuss and act on these recommendations.

The Selectboard created an ad hoc committee this year called the Commission for Education. This group of eight Gill residents spent months of intense work assessing the current education system in Gill. The Commission presented its findings at the annual town meeting. At town meeting, voters approved forming two new committees to continue on the work of the Commission.

In February, shortly after we had set our Fiscal Year 2009 budget, the state imposed mid-year cuts to state aid to the tune of almost \$26,000. The Selectboard called together all Town departments, boards, and committees and asked them to voluntarily cut their budgets to make it through the end of the year. I really commend those involved for being so generous through that process. We made it through without having to mandatorily impose cuts on anyone.

Gill's website won an Award with Distinction this year from Common Cause, a "nonpartisan, nonprofit, government watchdog, dedicated to citizen participation in an open, honest, and accountable government." Only 49 communities among the 351 in the State received this award. The Town Administrator has been working steadily to keep the website updated and add new features to it over the years. Please check it out at www.gillmass.org.

Voters at the annual town meeting approved an article allowing the Selectboard to hire its first town administrator, as opposed to an administrative assistant. This new role now supervises department heads, acts as chief procurement officer, and is authorized to sign vendor contracts.

In the May election the Board lost long-time member Leland Stevens. Lee served for fifteen years as selectman and served on the Planning Board and other Town committees for years before that. We were saddened to lose such a piece of our institutional history and a man who obviously cares about his community.

John Ward joined the Board in May. We welcome John and wish him the best of luck while learning the ropes.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ann H. Banash
Selectboard Chair*

BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT

In 2009 the Board of Health issued six Installers Permits, three Haulers Permits, nine Food Establishment Permits, three tobacco permits and one campground permit, to various vendors. The Board also issued two well and two septic permits to Town residents.

The Board attended hearings on a proposed biomass plant in Greenfield, which borders Gill, and voted to have Glen Ayers, Franklin Regional Council of Governments Health Agent, represent them in the matter.

The Board of Health meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 5:00 P.M.

*Gill Board of Health:
Doug Edson, Chair
Randy Crochier, Secretary
Ed Galipault*

BOARD OF ASSESSORS REPORT

In January the Assessors developed a new supplemental questionnaire to be used by taxpayers filing for abatement. This form was successfully implemented during the FY2009 abatement period, and will be used again in FY2010. The Assessors also made site visits a required part of the abatement process.

On February 9, 2009, acting on a recommendation contained in the Financial Management Review prepared by the Department of Revenue, Nancy Griswold stepped down as Co-Chair of the Board. Ray Purington was elected as Chair.

Through a grant administered by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, all towns in our area are eligible to receive aerial photographs of their towns and the computer software needed to view the photos. There was no cost for the photos or software. The software is called Pictometry, and is installed in several town departments, including the Assessors' Office. The photos are a useful tool for identifying structures that are missing from a property record card, and therefore are not being taxed.

In order to further our knowledge of assessing, the Assessors and Clerk have been taking advantage of free training seminars whenever possible. This year's seminars included sessions on using the Pictometry software and understanding the Community Preservation Act. We also watched two award-winning videos produced by assessors in the towns of Hull and Westfield, Massachusetts.

As a cost-saving measure, the Assessors stopped buying copies of recent deed transactions from the Registry of Deeds. These documents are now printed in-house from the Registry's website (www.masslandrecords.com).

The Assessors and Clerk devoted approximately 10 hours, spread out over several meetings, brainstorming and prioritizing a list of goals and projects to work on during FY2010 and beyond. A copy is posted in the Assessors' Office. There are 46 items on the list; some are relatively simple tasks while others are strategic goals requiring greater time and effort to implement. Included on the list are fourteen recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Financial Management Review of the Town.

Through the first half of 2009, there were five home sales in Gill. Two sold for more than assessed value, one sold for less than

assessed value, and two involved the sale of bank-foreclosed properties. This is too small a sample to make a definitive conclusion about a trend for assessed values next year. (Sales in 2008 and 2009 are used to determine assessed values in FY2011.)

FY2011 will involve Gill's next triennial recertification of assessed values by the Department of Revenue. There is a lot of work to be done, and we plan on getting started during FY2010. While the triennial "revals" are time consuming and do cost money, the process will not be as onerous or expensive as the town wide recollection of data that was done for FY2008.

Discounts on property taxes are available to qualified taxpayers, including the elderly, the blind, veterans, and surviving spouses. To learn more about these exemptions, contact the Assessors' Office.

Finally, remember that the more you involve yourself in town government, the more town government will reflect what is important to you. Run for an elected position or volunteer for a board or committee. Vote in town elections and attend town meetings. Be a part of what's good for Gill! (Yes, this same paragraph was in the 2008 Annual Report. It's important enough to be stated again!)

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Purington, Chair
Nancy Griswold
Peter Conway

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS
FINANCIAL REPORT**

	FY2008	FY2009
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,706,053.58	\$2,741,381.81
Less Estimated Receipts & Revenues	<u>905,195.15</u>	<u>827,791.63</u>
Net to be Raised (A)	\$1,800,858.43	\$1,913,590.18

Valuation:

Real Estate	\$154,876,923.00	\$143,440,072.00
Personal Property	<u>2,403,290.00</u>	<u>3,533,060.00</u>
Total Valuation (B)	\$157,280,213.00	\$146,973,132.00

**Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Valuation
(A multiplied by 1,000 divided by B)**

\$11.45	\$13.02
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Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments

Levy Year 2007	\$43,722.10	\$0.00
Levy Year 2008	216,851.10	2,686.49
Levy Year 2009	<u>0.00</u>	<u>169,200.99</u>
Total	\$260,573.20	\$171,887.48

Boat Excise Commitment	\$1,732.00	\$1,796.50
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	FY2008	FY2009
Motor Vehicle Excise Abatements		
Levy Year 2007	180.94	\$0.00
Levy Year 2008	2,867.58	1,081.78
Levy Year 2009	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,425.62</u>
Total	\$3,048.52	\$1,796.50
 Real Estate Exemptions		
Section 22 (Veterans)	\$6,800.00	\$6,400.00
Section 42	2,470.91	2,730.29
Section 41C (Over 70)	2,500.00	4,000.00
 Real Estate and Personal Property Abatements		
Chapter 59	<u>5,816.91</u>	<u>5,625.25</u>
Total	\$17,587.82	\$18,755.54

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION REPORT

January through June tends to be a quieter time in agricultural realms. In 2009, that remains true; only three events took place. The first event was the passage of a “Right to Farm” bylaw at the January special town meeting. We are hoping to make that event more visible in the future.

The second event was the changing of the faces of the Commission. Chairperson Bridget Logan had to relocate from the area, just at the time that Steve Damon and Kathy Litchfield were showing interest in joining. It was a peaceful coup d'état. Commission members elected Steve to serve as Chairperson.

Also during this time, the *Gill's Farms* brochures were completed and printed. The brochures were distributed to the listed farmers, other farmers, other Ag. Commissions, and state and national officials. Later, the brochure was distributed through The Gill Newsletter.

We are happy to listen to any agricultural concern or announcement!

*Respectfully submitted,
Steve Damon, Chair
Kathy Litchfield
Shirley Flagg
Bruce Yukl
Dick French*

CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

The Cemetery Commissioners regretfully received the resignation of Beverly Demars from the Commission at our first meeting in April of this year. Beverly was a great asset to the Commission, having done many projects for the benefit of the Town. We thank her for all she has done, and will greatly miss her input and energy.

The Selectboard appointed Ann Marie Klein to finish out Beverly's term as Cemetery Commissioner. Ann Marie is a fairly recent resident to the area and is eager to learn.

The Commissioners would like to thank Mr. William Cardaropoli and his crew for the great job he has done in mowing and maintaining the cemetery lots. Also, our thanks go to Snow & Sons for the opening of our graves for burial.

The Commissioners unanimously voted to change the meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

At the request of the Town Clerk, Carrie is working on a computer database to record all the births and deaths in the Town of Gill. The death records are complete, and the birth records are almost done. When the project is finished, Carrie hopes to correlate both records to give a more complete database for an easy reference.

The current price for burial lots is \$400 per single lot. Forty percent of the money goes to Perpetual Care and the remaining sixty percent goes to the Sale of Lots account.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Stevens

Patricia Haigis

Ann Marie Klein

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Conservation Commission had a significant set-back with the resignation of long-time member and Chair Tony Mathews due to health reasons. Tony served for 24 years on the Commission and his time and efforts are greatly appreciated by his many colleagues and friends. His ongoing contributions to the Town extend well beyond his work on the Commission as many of us know. We all continue to wish him the best with the challenges he bravely faces.

The parcel of land along Hoe Shop Road known as the Sandri Property was purchased by the Franklin County Land Trust (FCLT), which worked with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on developing a Conservation Restriction (CR) on the property. The FCLT and DCR were fantastic to work with on this project along with support from the Blake Trust (administered by Dick French). At our June Town Meeting presentations were given on the opportunity to receive this

land as a gift, at no cost to the Town. By an overwhelming margin, the Town voted to allow the Selectboard to accept 162 acres of forest, fields, pond, and river frontage on the Fall River – a great diversity of habitats for many species of concern. In the late summer the Selectboard voted to receive this gift of land. Many people are excited about the opportunities for our citizens to have a place to recreate and enjoy as it is forever. The Commission is seeking people interested in serving on the Town Forest Committee as we work to develop a recreation plan and discuss short-term and long-term ideas for the property and develop opportunities for public involvement. The Conservation Commission is designated to oversee the CR.

In addition to standard permitting and reviews, the Commission initiated the review of a multi-year plan to stabilize and restore over one mile of riverbank on the Connecticut River in the area known as the Gill Lower Fields. This intensive permit process required additional time by the Commission and the many individuals and groups interested in the permitting and planning of this work. The review continued into the late summer.

Please contact the Commission with any questions regarding work in proximity to a perennial stream/river, wetlands (ponds/ vernal pools), or whether there are habitats of concern for threatened and endangered species. Remember all building permits require review and signature by the Commission.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ken Sprankle, Chair
Ted Castro-Santos
Keith Lilly*

COUNCIL ON AGING REPORT

The mission of the Gill-Montague Council on Aging is to provide referral, 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, and recreation programs and activities.

The Council is responsible for the daily operation of the Senior

Center located at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls. The Center is open between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. Regular activities at the Senior Center include fitness (Aerobics, Easy Aerobics, Tai Chi, Chair Yoga and Walking Group), socializing (Knitting Circle, Coffee & Conversation, Pitch, Bingo, Canasta, Picnics, Pot Lucks, Musical Programs, Painting, Day trips and Scrabble), and education and health programs (Health and Nutrition Lectures & Workshops, Foot Screenings, Monthly Health Screenings, Balance Testing, Falls Prevention, Mental Fitness and Financial Information). Fitness and health programs are partially funded through grants from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Franklin County Home Care Corporation, participant donations, and fund-raising efforts. Approximately 700 seniors from Gill and Montague will use the Senior Center over the course of a year. This number represents approximately 40% of the senior population in the two towns.

The Council on Aging publishes a bi-monthly newsletter that is mailed to seniors in Gill and Montague and is distributed at town offices and businesses. The postage for the newsletter is partially supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and private donation; Senior Publishing Company publishes it free. The Senior Center weekly activities are also published in the Recorder, in the Montague Reporter, in The Gill Newsletter, on MCTV and on the website Montague.ma.

Franklin County Home Care Corporation provides congregate meals at the Senior Center Tuesday through Friday and seniors are provided limited transportation to and from the Center by FRTA on Wednesdays only. Franklin County Home Care's meal-site manager, Becky Cobb, is on site Tuesday through Thursday and Friday's meal is prepared and served by Council on Aging volunteers.

A large part of the services provided by the Senior Center is planned and executed by volunteers. The Senior Center is fortunate to have such a willing and able group of volunteers who are generous with their time and thoroughly committed to the continued success of the Senior Center. Volunteers—mostly, but not all, seniors—will work over 500 hours in the course of a year and it is their time and effort that make many of the Senior Center's programs possible.

Juanita "Bunny" Caldwell retired at the end of July after twelve years as director of the Gill-Montague Council on Aging. The

Council is grateful to Ms. Caldwell for her leadership and years of dedicated service and appreciative of her continued work at the Senior Center as a volunteer. A search committee made up of Gill and Montague Council on Aging members, Town employees, and the Montague Town Administrator selected Roberta Potter of Turners Falls to be Ms. Caldwell's successor. The director's position was reduced to 17 hours per weeks without benefits.

The Senior Center Director and volunteers, with the two Councils on Aging, continue to be challenged by a lack of space at the Center for additional programming and the lack of adequate public and on-demand transportation for seniors who no longer drive. We continue, however to be grateful to all of the businesses and agencies, public and private, who so generously support the Gill-Montague Council on Aging.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gill Council on Aging

Beverly Demars, Chair

Audrey Ambo, Renee Jenkins, Joseph Naida, and

Roberta Potter, Director Gill Montague Council on Aging

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

This report is written in mid-October 2009, but addresses principally the period of January through June 2009. During that time the Finance Committee and Selectboard have further developed a process for cooperative work on the Town budget and related issues. Joint meetings have been employed both for exploring the needs of individual departments with the department heads and for discussing overall Town requirements and budgeting strategies. The Committee thanks the Selectboard members for their openness and willingness to work cooperatively seeking the best possible fiscal policy and helping to clarify budget issues for the people of Gill at Town meeting. In all these areas the Town Administrator, Tracy Rogers, has consistently provided much needed assistance and facilitated the joint efforts of the Board and the Committee.

Due primarily to the Selectboard's strong leadership in

controlling department budgets from early in the budget cycle, the Town has managed to get through a very difficult year without the need for an override to settle the FY10 budget. More detail will be provided in the next Annual Report regarding the final FY10 budget and how it compares with earlier years, but let it be noted here that the Town was able to balance its budget despite a 14% reduction in revenue from the State and a more than 3% increase in School District assessments. This was made possible by keeping department budgets essentially flat and due to reduced enrollment at, and thus reduced assessment for, the technical school.

Virtually everyone involved at State and Town levels predict an even more difficult FY11, which is the budget cycle that will begin as soon as the FY10 budget is finally settled by a conclusion to the School District process on December 1 at the latest. Both State and local receipts are expected to continue their downward spiral and the pressure for increased funding from the School District will almost certainly continue. Anticipating these developments, the Finance Committee has sought to protect and increase the Stabilization Fund this year, and concurrently both the Selectboard and the Finance Committee are seeking a fuller understanding of the necessary and proper level of Town services to be provided out of our decreasing revenue sources.

It is traditional to end these reports with expressions of gratitude to Committee members for their time and hard work on behalf of the Town. In this case the tradition is more justified than ever, for our members have attended many, many meetings in connection with an ever evolving budget and in preparation for two Town meetings and a variety of events relating to the School District budget. They have brought a wide range of experience, intelligence and important insights to the entire process. I encourage residents of Gill to express their personal thanks to our Committee members, for they truly deserve it.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tupper Brown, Chair*



FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Gill Fire Department responded to 75 calls from January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009. We responded eight times for mutual aid to surrounding towns, and received aid from other towns once.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Alarm Sounding	16	21.3
Assist other Agency	2	2.7
Carbon Monoxide Investigation	3	4.0
Dumpster Fire	1	1.3
Electrical Problem in Residence	1	1.3
Gasoline Leak	1	1.3
Investigation	1	1.3
Medical Emergency	28	37.3
Mutual Aid	8	10.7
Motor Vehicle Crash	4	5.3
Outside Fire	1	1.3
Possible Jumper	1	1.3
Public Service	3	4.0
Structure Fire	1	1.3
Water Rescue	1	1.3
Trees/Wires Down	3	4.0
Total	75	100.0

The Department continues to train every Thursday night. During these Thursday night trainings the firefighters check all the trucks and equipment to make sure they are in good working order. We then go out and do practical training including ladder training, pumping, fire tactics and simulated fires, and search and rescue, just to name a few items. I would like to thank my training officers Stu Elliott, Jason Edson, and Christopher Goodhind for all their hard work in planning these training nights. Department members also continue to devote a lot of their own time for training and spend a lot of nights out away from their families. These hours spent on training are all unpaid. We continue to utilize the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy training programs. They are offered throughout the state and open to any firefighter. The Meadowood Training facility in New Hampshire has been re-opened and offers training.

This past spring the Gill Emergency Management Director participated in two training exercises and one full scale exercise for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon VT. The exercise

was graded by controllers evaluating the Gill staff at the Gill EOC (emergency operations center) and we received a perfect report with no deficiencies. I would like to thank all of my EOC staff which included fire department members, Nikol Schreiver from the Police Department, Ed Ambo and George Emery from the Highway Department, Randy Crochier from the Board of Health, and Nancy Griswold from the Selectboard—great job everyone.

The fire department requested a grant from FEMA to replace our outdated air packs which will bring us up to current NFPA standards. This is a 95% FEMA & 5% Town matching grant.

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.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Department 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 be again requesting a fulltime daytime firefighter position. Due to the number of volunteers working out of town, there is often a delay in a response. Also, there is an increase in paperwork and inspections that need to be done during the work week and some of these can be done during the day.

In closing, my thanks to the officers and firefighters of this department for their help and support over the last year. Thanks also to their spouses, children, and significant others for giving up their husbands, wives, fathers, mothers to the Fire Department each week...in the middle of the night, or the 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 officers from the Police Department, and members of the Selectboard for their support during the past year.

Also thanks to my wife, Dorri, for her understanding and help throughout the year as I attend many meetings and trainings.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene M. Beaubien

Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

As Highway Superintendent I would like to thank all the wonderful residents for your continued support. As always it is a pleasure to serve you and the beautiful community you live in.

We have been very busy these past six months repairing equipment and keeping your roadways clear of ice and snow for your safe travel. You may have asked the question this past winter, why the roads were not plowed as quickly as in past years? The answer to that is simple: the Selectboard asked that we conserve fuel and overtime to try and save money in our budget.

We also have been busy trimming trees and getting ready for our upcoming projects to take place in the summer months. We worked on town buildings to repair and maintain the existing structures such as insulating, repairing sinks and toilets, repairing overhead doors, and resolving heating issues.

The spring weather brought the usual projects such as grading the gravel roads, cleaning catch basins, street sweeping and drainage cleaning.

The new dump truck was delivered in February and placed into service. The truck was named "Gillie" as part of the "Name the Truck" contest the Town held. Congrats to Pat Haigis for her winning entry. The new truck allows our workers to sand ahead of the rear wheels instead of behind the truck, which is much safer for the driver on ice-covered roadways.

In closing this short report, I would like to thank the employees of the highway department for their continued dedication. I would also like to commend the residents for their assistance keeping our wonderful farming community clean and vibrant.

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



HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

In the early part of the year, Commission members examined documents and corresponded with the Highway Department regarding the resurfacing of the section of Route 2 in the Archaeological District, between the Gill-Montague Bridge and the French King Bridge. Members also explored issues relating to the possible sale of the Riverside Building, its value to the Gill community and how to preserve the historic building and enhance its use.

In May, members attended historical preservation workshops in Greenfield and Springfield on establishing local historic districts and on how to create preservation restriction agreements to protect historical properties. Commission members devoted time to techniques for the preservation of Gill historic articles and documents being stored in the Slate Memorial Library. As we continue our inventory of Gill historic artifacts and documents, the Commission is increasing its efforts to promote the Town's history by preparing a list of historic sites in Gill. We are grateful to all those who have donated items to the Gill collection this year. In addition, we very much appreciate the volunteer help of two Northfield Mount Hermon seniors who came in the spring and helped computerize photos of Commission holdings.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cristin Carpenter, Chair*

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Day service was held on May 24th in the Gill Congregational Church. Gary Bourbeau led with the welcome, introductions and announcements. Merri Bourbeau and Betsy Burnham followed with readings from the Bible. Everyone joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We were honored to have Richard Kimball give the memorial address. We then watched a very moving and emotional video containing pictures of the men and women of the military serving our country today.

Services continued at the Veterans' Monuments, where Gary

Bourbeau gave the opening prayer, and Nancy Griswold of the Selectboard gave the welcoming address. The Oak Ridge Detachment Marine Corps League participated with Senior Vice Commandant John Barlow offering the memorial prayer. The Boy Scout Troop 6 participated in the rose ceremony. Also on hand were members of the Gill Fire Department serving as honor guard with Steve and Joyanna Damon playing "Taps." Local veterans 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. The service was concluded with the raising of the new flag by the Memorial Committee members and a gun salute by the Oak Ridge Detachment Marine Corps League.

New flags and geraniums were distributed at each of the veterans' grave sites.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Smith

Douglas Smith

Gary Bourbeau

Merri Bourbeau

Chester Kuzontkoski

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

In 2009 the Planning Board approved several ANRs (Approval Not Required) and completed the amendment to the Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The Board drafted these amendments in an effort to preserve open space, to ensure that developers construct roads in accordance with current design standards, to ensure properly designed septic systems and wells, and to require Homeowners Associations to maintain the upkeep of developments. In conjunction with this, the Planning Board also amended their Form A, B, C and O applications.

The Planning Board would like to thank the Highway Department, the Fire Department and the Board of Health for their input in the amendment to their Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The Board also wishes to express their appreciation for the

cooperation of Town staff in the ANR review process.

The Planning Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. We are always looking for more members!

You will form new relationships with other boards and commissions in town hall, work with the town clerk, your local media, town counsel, your regional planning agency and legislators. This will help maintain a sense of the overall community you serve. You will learn to write legally binding decisions; these may be challenged in court or written up in the local paper. You'll get used to being thought of as a villain by some and a hero by others.¹

Gill Planning Board:

Doug Smith, Chair

Shirley Flagg

Tim Storrow

Dick French

¹*So...you're joining The Planning Board.* Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts' Extension Program, 2001.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Emergency: 911

Station: (413) 863-9398 Fax: (413) 863-0157

Email: policedept@gillmass.org

In completing the annual report for this fiscal year, please be reminded that the time frame is Jan 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 to coincide with other documentation accountable during the fiscal year. With that statement, please accept the following as summary of activity for this community. It is truly my honor to serve the good citizens and serve alongside my fellow dedicated officers of this department.

This has once again been a very challenging year due to the ongoing financial crisis our town has found itself in. We continue to provide the best coverage possible to the community of Gill.

January. Sgt. Redmond attended the training session held by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments on Pictometry, software that allows the department to gain knowledge of terrain,

buildings, and other structures. The department was also part of the statewide “Seat Belt Pledge Cards” program.

February. Chief Hastings attended training on severe head injuries presented by the Massachusetts Partners In Prevention. This training described long- and short-term effects of head injuries. Roll call training was provided for all officers in the form of a DVD regarding “Saving Lives....One Stop At A Time.”

March. All officers received training on weapons concealment and recognition. Information was provided on the numerous ways to conceal deadly weapons of all kinds on the human body.

April. Chief Hastings was honored to be selected to attend the swearing in of William F. Mazanec, III as Associate Justice of the Greenfield District Court by Governor Patrick. Sergeant Redmond attended a demonstration of the new Ford MyKey system motor vehicle. This state of the art vehicle would allow parents to set a speed that the vehicle could not exceed, or even set a maximum level at which the radio would be allowed to play. This program, should it take off, will provide greater safety to the newest of drivers in the Commonwealth. The department received a thank you letter from Lt. James Carpenter of the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department regarding its continued support of the Triad program.

May. Officer Bassett attended and assisted with the Memorial Day Service in the center of Town in honor of our departed family, friends and service members. The Police Department agreed with the Commonwealth to enforce seat belt violations with zero tolerance for excuses. This agreement was made as part of the continued Governor’s Highway Safety Bureau Grant Funding program. Chief Hastings attended a training presented by the Juvenile Justice Program regarding youths and computer crimes. Officer Schreiver attended “Firearms Legal Updates” presented by the Municipal Police Institute.

June. Chief Hastings and Sgt. Redmond attended training at the Greenfield Police Department on mobile phone seizures. This training was presented by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office on Cyber Crime. All officers were provided training information on responding to an active shooter and potential workplace violence.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chief David Hastings*

Traffic Citations

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Arrest	6	2.6
Civil Infraction	67	29.3
Complaint	10	4.4
Warning	143	62.4
Verbal	1	0.4
Municipal	2	0.9
<hr/>		
TOTAL	229	100.0

Average speed (charged)	57 MPH
Average speed limit	41 MPH
Average MPH over speed limit	16 MPH

Racial Profiling Data

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Black	5	2.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	0.4
Hispanic	1	0.4
Middle Eastern or East Indian (South Asian)	1	0.4
White	217	94.8
Missing/Unknown	4	1.7
<hr/>		
TOTAL	229	100.0

Case Activity Statistics

Total offenses committed	87
Total felonies	15
Total crime related incidents	32
Total non crime related incidents	181
Total arrests (on view)	3
Total arrests (based on incident/warrants)	10
Total summons arrests	13
Total arrests	26

No Crime Incident Event Breakdown

<u>Event</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
911 mis-dial	23	8.6
Abandoned vehicle	1	0.4
Alarm	22	8.2
Animal complaint	21	7.8
Annoying phone calls	3	1.1
Assist citizen	10	3.7
Assist other agency—Bernardston PD	9	3.3
Assist other agency—Erving Police	7	2.6
Assist other agency—Montague PD	2	0.7
Assist other agency—Northfield PD	3	1.1
Assist other agency—Unspecified	4	1.5
ATV complaint	2	0.7
Car v. deer accident	7	2.6
Civil issue	1	0.4
Disabled motor vehicle	19	7.1
Discharge firearm	1	0.4
Disturbance—family	6	2.2

No Crime Incident Event Breakdown (Cont'd)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Disturbance—general	3	1.1
Disturbance—loud noise	6	2.2
Fire	4	1.5
Found property	1	0.4
Medical assist	20	7.4
Major vehicle accident	15	5.6
Minor vehicle accident	3	1.1
Police information	4	1.5
Summons/court process	14	5.2
Suspicious activity	9	3.3
Towed vehicle	5	1.9
Trespass	2	0.7
Unattended death	3	1.1
Unwanted subject	1	0.4
Vehicle complaint	16	5.9
Welfare check	8	3.0
All other	14	5.2

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The first week of January started off our schedule for the Recreation Tri-County Basketball League games. This year we had one co-ed 2nd — 4th grade team, coached by Nate Duda with assistance from David, an NMH student. At the 5th/6th grade level we had one co-ed team, which was coached by Jim Poulsen. Our home games were played at Turners Falls High School on Saturdays. Luke Poulsen and Chad Galipault refereed and Angela Marguet ran the scoreboard. Both teams had a great season with improvements from all players throughout the season. Gill received a lot of compliments on their team sportsmanship and desire to

have fun. Our referees also got a lot of compliments from visiting coaches. We held our end-of-season gathering at the NMH gym. The annual potluck was a hit with medallions and certificates for all who participated. This was followed by a kids versus parents basketball game. Thank you to NMH, and to all the coaches and parents who helped make it a great season for all.

Kim Malcolm and Bridget Logan were able to set up family swim, skate and basketball for Sundays 1 to 3 p.m. at NMH during the winter months. A lot of families in Gill made it a part of their Sunday afternoon on a weekly basis. The Rec. Committee received many thanks all winter long for making this happen. We are very blessed to have NMH in our town and fortunate they share their facilities with our town. Thank you to all at NMH; you help make Gill a great town to live in.

With lots of snow, we had our annual Wacky Sliding Party at Oak Ridge Golf Course. The Committee served hotdogs, hot cocoa and cookies. The Gill Fire Dept. was there with their rescue van, keeping the kids warm and sliders safe. We had a few wacky sleds, but most people show up with a sled they know is going to keep them sliding all day. Thank you to Rick and Janice of Oak Ridge Golf Course for allowing this event to happen each year, as well as to the members of the Gill Fire Dept. for the constant level of safety they provide for the town.

Baseball and Softball keeps the Rec. busy in the spring and early summer. This year we had five teams in the Tri-County Baseball League and the Small Town Softball league. Rose Levasseur, Rollie Weld with his daughters Jen and Alissa coached Softball (3rd—6th) and they all had a great season. By the end of the season the players all showed huge improvements. Brian Bodell, Mitch Damon and David Shutta took the youth (5th/6th) team all the way to the championship game. Nate Duda, Mark Almeida, Everett Logan and Harry van Baaren coached Gill 1 Pee-Wee (2nd—4th), which made it into the playoffs. Jim Bernstein, Alan Vaughn and Jason Wallace coached Gill 2 Pee-Wee (2nd—4th). Tony Zager and many other parents coached the farm team (K—2nd). Our umpires were John Duda, Eric Levasseur, Tony Zager, Tim Zager and Nate Duda. At the end of the season all the teams got together for a potluck meal with medallions and certificates for all who participated, followed by the big game where parents played against the kids. This year we went into extra innings because no one wanted to stop playing. We all went home

very tired that day.

I would like to thank the Logan family for all the support they offered to the community of Gill and wish their family the best of luck in their new community. The Rec. will miss them all.

I would also like to thank Tracy Rogers and the Selectboard for all their effort and guidance they provide to keep the Rec. Committee moving forward.

*Best regards,
Nathan Duda, Rec. Chair
Rose Levasseur, Treasurer
Kim Malcolm*

SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

This year's summer reading program, "A Starship Adventure at Your Library," involved over fifty children and their families in reading enrichment activities at the library. The program's highlights included a rocket building workshop by Mad Science of Western Massachusetts, an outer space puppet show by Rosalita's Puppets from Boston, as well as drawing workshops and a concert on the lawn by local musician Tim Van Egmond. Special thanks to Kim Sprankle, assistant librarian, who helped out at many events and taught a recycled art workshop as part of our program.

Preschool story hour has continued to be a part of Friday morning fun at Slate Library. Held each Friday morning at 10 a.m., this program is funded in large part by the Community Partnership for Children of Gill-Montague. In addition to enjoying theme-based programs of story and art, parents and preschoolers alike valued the opportunity to meet, play and socialize on a regular basis. Preschool story hour encourages Gill youngsters to love books, and even more, to regard the library as an exciting resource.

Our collection continues to grow, and we gained many new audio books for children, which circulate very highly during the summer months! (Great for long car trips!) We also gained many new titles in both fiction and non-fiction. Many thanks to trustee Ellen Johnson for all the time she puts in to beautifying the building with her artful plantings and window boxes. Thanks as well to trustees Anne Perry and Elisabeth Greenough, who volunteer both their time and expertise in helping us maintain and

upgrade the building.

Library hours are Mondays 2-6 p.m., Thursdays 2-8 p.m., and Saturdays 10-2 p.m. For information on programs or resources, please call Jocelyn at 863-2591.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jocelyn Castro-Santos
Library Director*

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

The Town of Gill, through its Zoning Bylaws, has defined ways your land can and cannot be used. Some uses are not allowed at all in Gill—like drive-through businesses. Other uses are always allowed—like residences. Still other uses, however, need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and these require a special permit. Where do you go to get such a permit? You apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

When we receive a complete request for a special permit, we set a date for a hearing and invite the public to participate. Hearing notices are sent directly to abutters within 300 feet of the property to be discussed, posted at the Town Hall, and placed in the classified ads section of The Recorder. Gill is your town and you are always welcome at any public hearing.

The ZBA issued two special permits this year involved. The first involved the Gill Tavern. The existing special permit for the Tavern was modified to allow the business to be open up to six days each week from 7 AM – 11 PM and operate as a restaurant and a store during all approved hours.

The second permit involved signage at the Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) School campus. You might have noticed the new signs at NMH. The School needed a special permit because they wanted more signs than were allowed by right in the bylaws and the signs were larger than allowed. A special permit was granted as requested.

Volunteers serving on the ZBA take their role very seriously. We know the decisions we make can potentially affect your quality of life. It is important to keep this board fully staffed with five members and we would very much like to have two alternates.

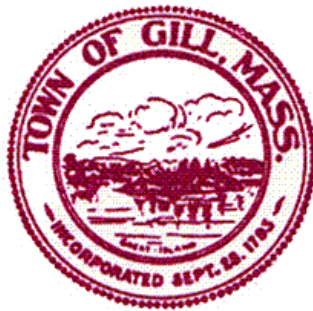
When conflicts of interest arise, or illness, vacations or work demands prohibit a board member from participating, we can find ourselves in a position of not being able to assemble a quorum and, therefore, not being able to issue a decision..

We currently have five active members on the ZBA. Alternate members would participate in all meetings and hearings so they could step in as voting members when needed. If a full voting member were to resign, alternates would be natural candidates to fill the vacancy. We meet once/month in the evening. If you have any interest in being part of the ZBA, please contact us.

*Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smiley, 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
2009

TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS

Name	Bal 7/01/2008	Income	Expense	Interest	Bal.6/30/2009
West Cemetery					
P.C. Funds	1,916.02			38.90	1,954.84
Alonzo Atherton	282.47			4.91	208.78
Day, Wood, Hosmer	401.76			8.14	409.90
George W. Harris	354.33			6.98	361.51
George W. Hastings	260.82		78.00	3.89	186.22
Lewis L. Hastings	392.83			7.98	400.79
Helen M. Lynde	142.41			2.88	145.29
Total West Cemetery	3,750.64		78.00	73.68	3,667.33
North Cemetery					
North Burial	436.48			8.76	445.32
P.C. Funds	1,235.80		312.00	19.79	943.59
George Bliss	469.55			9.65	479.07
Julian T. Martindale	81.71			1.66	83.37
Holland F. Roberts	99.46			2.01	101.47
Bardwell - Severance	443.21		156.00	7.39	294.60
R & L Stockwell	161.29			3.27	164.56
Ella J. Stoughton	245.74			4.98	250.72
Wright & Perry	750.43		156.00	13.62	608.05
Total North Cemetery	3,923.67		624.00	71.13	3,370.75

Center Cemetery					
P.C. Funds	4,661.61		94.50	4,756.06	
Josiah D. Channing	531.05		10.75	541.80	
Fredrick Hale	8,131.97	130.00	163.44	8,165.41	
Kate L. Haywood	325.33	130.00	4.40	199.73	
Lyman B. Howe	913.59		18.51	932.10	
Samuel Janes	1,057.28		21.42	1,078.70	
E.L. Kelly	1,092.99		22.25	1,120.24	
A.F.S. Lyons	1,373.32		27.83	1,401.15	
William Nichols	1,012.01		20.51	1,032.52	
Halbert & Persis Phillips	1,004.73		20.35	1,025.08	
Warren Purple	647.18		13.11	660.29	
William H. Rapp	1,190.35		24.11	1,214.46	
Emily A. Roberts	992.53		20.12	1,012.64	
Toomey - Scheiding	788.01		15.96	803.97	
Hollis M. Slate	1,665.54		33.75	1,699.29	
Gilbert Stacy	995.81		20.18	1,015.99	
Samuel P. Stratton	967.01		19.6	986.61	
John A. Tenney	752.44		15.25	767.69	
Sarah S. Van Horn	716.48		14.51	730.99	
Total Center Cemetery	28,819.23	260.00	580.55	29,144.72	
Total Riverside Cemetery	105.31		2.13	107.44	
Edward Morgan					

Name	Bal. 7/1/2008	Income	Expense	Interest	Bal. 6/30/2009
Library Funds					
Charles Stoughton	4,598.95			93.54	4,692.13
Cora Holmes	1,304.69			26.54	1,331.12
Harris Trust	11,188.49			227.54	11,415.18
Mary Morgan	1,116.71			22.71	1,139.33
Riverside Library	3,957.03			80.47	4,037.21
Library Trustees	29.12			0.6	29.72
Gill Protective	952.57			17.34	971.87
Benevolent Society	2,769.72			56.32	2,825.83
Total Library Funds	25,917.28			525.06	26,442.39

Name	Bal. 7/1/2008	Income	Expense	Interest	Bal. 6/30/2009
Master Sub Accounts					
Stabilization	133,301.39		39,098.62	2,599.77	96,802.54
General Funds	792.54			16.05	808.59
Unemployment	39,591.96			802.17	40,394.13
Recreation Revolving	1,888.04	6,422.65	7,581.94		728.75
Gill Bldg. Inspector Stab. Fund		13,631.00		91.65	13,722.65
Harriet Tidd Cemetery Trust		52,844.37		358.75	53,203.12
Sewer Loan	75,366.94			1,527.01	76,893.95
Quintus Allen	9,794.02	2,584.00		199.41	12,577.43

Bank of Western Mass.								
Payroll Account	1,915.34	613,987.32	606,677.35	28.74	9,254.05			
Sweep Vender Account	618,700.49	2,537,864.62	2,356,510.74	6,647.30	806,701.67			
Collector's	21,558.05	2,238,572.37	2,254,260.04	24.36	5,894.74			
Webster Bank 7/1/08-12/31/08								
Money Market	2,196.04		2,212.55	25.51	0			
Stabilization	518.40		524.42	7.02	0			
TD Banknorth 1/1/09-6/30/09								
Money Market	524.42			2.66	527.08			
Stabilization	2,221.55			11.22	2,232.77			
MMDT								
Rehab Account	22,909.76			469.00	23,378.76			
Arts Lottery	1,110.22			22.73	1,132.95			
General Funds	1,867.93			38.23	1,906.16			
Bank Funds	934,257.09	5,465,906.33	5,266,865.66	12,871.58	1,146,159.34			

FY2009 TREASURER'S SUMMARY

	WARRANTS	RECEIPTS
July	231,460.73	317,704.26
August	519,037.15	197,290.17
September	147,987.58	501,228.59
1st Quarter	898,485.46	1,016,223.02
October	240,580.44	534,596.76
November	238,851.86	134,054.83
December	271,638.20	157,651.52
2nd Quarter	751,070.50	826,303.11
January	160,097.15	163,164.15
February	345,528.04	82,291.26
March	263,659.47	474,765.83
3rd Quarter	769,284.66	720,221.24
April	174,141.22	434,881.27
May	301,368.05	389,246.41
June	276,490.78	157,593.55
4th Quarter	752,000.05	981,721.23
Total	3,170,840.67	3,544,468.60
Beginning Balance	974,616.12	
Receipts	3,544,468.60	
Warrants	(3,170,840.67)	
Ending Balance	1,348,244.05	

COMPARATIVE REVENUE REPORT

	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>	<u>FY09</u>
Personal Property Taxes	34,350.06	27,888.99	43,868.83
Real Estate Taxes	1,529,637.81	1,730,900.32	1,896,051.00
Tax Liens Redeemed	0.00	32,593.29	34,318.86
Motor Vehicle Excise	157,009.98	258,311.25	201,110.50
Boat Excise	2,227.00	1,581.00	2,044.08
Farm Animal Excise	0.00	0.00	339.75
Classified Forest Excise	4,680.64	0.00	0.00
Rollback Taxes	14,405.23	0.00	1,545.87
Penalties & Interest on Property Taxes	8,858.90	9,090.95	8,895.99
Penalties & Interest on Excise Taxes	2,506.42	2,133.91	2,855.29
Trash Sticker Sales	31,369.10	29,797.65	30,023.10
Fees—Assessors	0.00	0.00	79.00
Fees—Collector	5,503.69	6,245.04	6,951.50
Fees—Registry Markings	1,220.00	1,460.00	980.00
Fees—Town Clerk	830.51	1,559.50	2,083.60

COMPARATIVE REVENUE REPORT (Continued)

	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>	<u>FY09</u>
Fees—Conservation Commission	101.13	34.08	346.30
Fees—Planning Board	200.00	100.00	0.00
Fees—Zoning Board	138.00	144.50	0.00
Fees—Police Dept.	647.30	3,205.84	1,938.00
Fees—Fire Dept.	620.00	1,260.00	3,015.00
Fees—Transfer Station	21.00	1,636.00	4.50
Fees—Board of Health	5,570.00	5,525.00	7,000.00
Rentals	8,796.50	10,050.00	10,200.00
Licenses—Liquor	3,025.00	3,080.00	4,665.00
Licenses—Other	1,389.50	1,030.00	1,100.00
Permits—Police Dept.	925.00	1,000.00	350.00
Permits—Building Insp.	49,472.00	18,763.00	23,849.00
Permits—Plumbing Insp.	4,460.00	2,860.00	4,200.00
Permits—Electrical Insp.	13,660.00	3,785.00	5,000.00
Reimbursement for Loss of Taxes	12,967.00	14,488.00	15,533.00

Veterans Abatements	1,525.00	0.00	0.00
Surviving Spouse Abatements	3,675.00	4,875.00	0.00
Elderly Abatements	4,016.00	4,016.00	2,510.00
Lottery Aid	259,945.00	264,688.00	238,895.00
Other State Revenue	656.00	188.00	376.00
Fines—RMV	18,020.00	15,330.00	9,325.00
Fines—District Court	797.50	2,112.50	1,840.00
Sale of Fixed Assets	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Earning on Investments	18,374.37	13,971.13	6,788.73
NMH FRTA Reimbursement	5,343.00	5,480.00	4,022.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,346.39	13,352.17	5,615.45
Pothole Grant	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Transfer from Special Revenue	88,346.25	75,783.15	67,355.00
Transfer from Stabilization	<u>13,000.00</u>	<u>23,451.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	2,310,636.28	2,592,770.27	2,657,075.35

FY2009 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2009 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Moderator	171.90	0.00	171.90	146.73	25.17	85
Selectboard Salaries	6,653.74	0.00	6,653.74	6,653.76	(0.02)	100
Selectboard Expenses	<u>3,145.02</u>	<u>(150.00)</u>	<u>2,995.02</u>	<u>2,576.32</u>	<u>418.70</u>	<u>86</u>
	9,798.76	(150.00)	9,648.76	9,230.08	418.68	96
Town Administrator	40,812.19	0.00	40,812.19	39,104.89	1,707.30	96
Town Administrator Expenses	<u>902.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>902.00</u>	<u>879.49</u>	<u>22.51</u>	<u>98</u>
	41,714.19	0.00	41,714.19	39,984.38	1,729.81	96
Finance Committee Expenses	150.00	0.00	150.00	126.00	24.00	84
Reserve Fund	1,500.00	(500.00)	1,000.00	0.00	1000.00	0
Accountant Expense	1,200.00	(1,000.00)	200.00	1.68	198.32	0
Assessors' Salaries	8,068.08	0.00	8,068.08	8,079.72	(11.64)	100
Assessors' Clerk	15,457.49	800.00	16,257.49	15,658.90	598.59	96
Assessors' Expenses	11,925.00	0.00	11,925.00	11,414.91	510.09	96
Assessors' Software	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,926.72</u>	<u>4,926.72</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,926.72</u>	<u>0</u>
	35,450.57	5,726.72	41,177.29	35,153.53	6,023.76	85

Assessors' Revaluation	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0
Treasurer's Salary	13,851.34	0.00	13,851.34	13,373.64	477.70	97
Treasurer's Expenses	4,000.00	1,377.50	5,377.50	5,342.23	35.27	99
	17,851.34	1,377.50	19,228.84	18,715.87	512.97	97
Collector's Salary	17,208.95	0.00	17,208.95	16,056.26	1,152.69	93
Collector's Expenses	6,963.00	0.00	6,963.00	6,583.10	379.90	95
	24,171.95	0.00	24,171.95	22,639.36	1,532.59	94
Legal Expenses	4,500.00	1,200.00	5,700.00	5,309.60	390.40	93
Computer/Software/Servers	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,264.53	235.47	84
Tax Taking	0.00	1,360.00	1,360.00	1,360.00	0.00	100
Clerk's Salary	11,150.54	0.00	11,150.54	10,766.06	384.48	97
Clerk's Expenses	3,225.00	0.00	3,225.00	2,685.59	539.41	83
	14,375.54	0.00	14,375.54	13,451.65	923.89	94
Elections, Registration	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,780.50	(280.50)	111
Voting Machine Purchase	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	400.00	0
	2,500.00	400.00	2,900.00	2,780.50	119.50	96

FY2009 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2009 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Fire Dept. Expenses	70,590.84	(8,358.34)	62,232.50	53,442.41	8,790.09	86
Fire Engine 1 Repairs	15,000.00	(10,000.00)	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0
	85,590.84	(18,358.34)	67,232.50	53,442.41	13,790.09	79
Animal Control Officer	500.00	(500.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dog Fund	800.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	800.00	0
	1,300.00	(500.00)	800.00	0.00	800.00	0
Tree & Forestry Expenses	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	2,973.71	26.29	99
Gill/Montague School District	1,339,362.00	9,684.00	1,349,046.00	1,349,046.00	0.00	100
TFHS/GFMS Building Loan	26,534.00	0.00	26,534.00	26,534.00	0.00	100
	1,365,896.00	9,684.00	1,375,580.00	1,375,580.00	0.00	100
Franklin County Tech School	98,685.00	0.00	98,685.00	98,685.00	0.00	100
General Highway Expenses	294,594.80	(50,200.00)	244,394.80	236,960.54	7,434.26	97
Road Maintenance/Constr.	0.00	1,520.18	1,520.18	0.00	1,520.18	0
Highway Equipment Repairs	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,603.26	396.74	92
	294,594.80	(43,679.82)	250,914.98	241,563.80	9,351.18	96

Bridges & Street Lighting	6,300.00	0.00	6,300.00	5,982.61	317.39	95
Hazardous Waste Collection	850.00	(850.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Solid Waste Removal	66,200.00	6,260.00	72,460.00	63,030.31	9,429.69	87
Solid Waste District	<u>2,854.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,854.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,854.00</u>	<u>0</u>
	69,904.00	5,410.00	75,314.00	63,030.31	12,283.69	84
Riverside Sewer System	51,335.00	11,000.00	62,335.00	60,544.31	1,790.69	97
Cemetery Commission	2,500.00	(955.47)	1,544.53	1,280.50	264.03	83
Memorial Committee	645.00	0.00	645.00	645.00	0.00	100
Center Cemetery Erosion	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>(14,046.00)</u>	<u>5,954.00</u>	<u>3,685.35</u>	<u>2,268.65</u>	<u>62</u>
	23,154.00	(15,001.47)	8,143.53	5,610.85	2,532.68	69
Board of Health Salaries	8,615.13	0.00	8,615.13	6,148.32	2,466.81	71
Board of Health Expenses	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>150.50</u>	<u>349.50</u>	<u>30</u>
	9,115.13	0.00	9,115.13	6,298.82	2,816.31	69
Council on Aging Expenses	7,032.66	0.00	7,032.66	6,340.75	691.91	90
Veterans Services	<u>2,394.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,394.00</u>	<u>2,394.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100</u>
Library Salaries	10,632.22	0.00	10,632.22	10,323.75	308.47	97
Library Expenses	<u>7,456.88</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,456.88</u>	<u>7,456.88</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100</u>
	18,089.10	0.00	18,089.10	17,780.63	308.47	98

FY2009 GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Revisions</u>	<u>Total 2009 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenses</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>% Used</u>
Recreation Comm. Expenses	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	75
Historical Commission Exp.	860.00	0.00	860.00	610.00	250.00	71
Historical Home Survey	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0
	860.00	1,000.00	1,860.00	610.00	1,250.00	33
Garage Construction Loan	16,748.00	0.00	16,748.00	16,748.00	0.00	100
Mariamante Loan	22,350.62	0.00	22,350.62	22,326.92	23.70	100
	39,098.62	0.00	39,098.62	39,074.92	23.70	100
Interest—Temporary Loans	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Air Pollution District	304.00	0.00	304.00	304.00	0.00	100
RMV Marking Surcharge	1,140.00	0.00	1,140.00	1,440.00	(300.00)	126
Regional Transit Authority	6,987.00	0.00	6,987.00	6,987.00	0.00	100
	8,431.00	0.00	8,431.00	8,731.00	(300.00)	104
Franklin County Retirement	62,331.00	0.00	62,331.00	62,331.00	0.00	100
Unemployment Insurance	2,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	262.98	4,737.02	5
Personal Insurance	95,634.28	(3,754.29)	91,879.99	91,531.60	348.39	100
Transfer to Stabilization	13,631.00	0.00	13,631.00	13,631.00	0.00	100

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—REAL ESTATE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>TAX TITLE</u>	<u>ADJUST- MENTS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
2004	865.23		4.48					869.71		
2005	5,088.68		2,008.47	2,744.64		343.97		1,960.27		948.73
2006	6,369.23		4,064.99			747.41		2,320.93		1,052.32
2007	10,120.86		7,142.68		90.16	928.60		12,885.67	882.69	3,833.93
2008	72,296.61		66,421.38	1,090.06	9,029.10	4,859.05	0.19	31,403.40	2,241.19	2,711.08
2009	(22,914.74)	1,870,873.48	1,799,566.19	13,239.06	1,108.77	6,879.03	0.19	49,775.55	3,123.88	8,546.06
Totals	71,825.87	1,870,873.48	1,879,208.19	17,073.76	10,228.03					

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—PERSONAL PROPERTY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>TAX TITLE</u>	<u>ADJUST- MENTS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
2004	168.61			33.72				134.89		
2005	264.73			21.46				243.27		
2006	116.54							116.54		
2007	466.44		371.49					94.95		8.05
2008	(1,956.45)		77.11		2,158.08			124.52		5.84
2009		46,000.42	46,514.91	937.44				514.49		3.61
Totals	(940.13)	46,000.42	46,963.51	992.62	2,158.08			1,228.66		17.50

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—MOTOR VEHICLES

YEAR	BEGIN TAX BALANCE	COMMITTED	PAYMENTS	ABATE/EXEMPT	REFUNDS	TAX TITLE	ADJUST- MENTS	ENDING TAX BALANCE	OTHER CHARGES	INTEREST
2003	15.49							15.49		
2004	866.34		281.04					585.30		144.41
2005	834.62		302.19					532.43		115.60
2006	(1,636.75)		423.44					(2,060.19)		135.50
2007	3,944.26	3,992.26	1,193.33					6,743.19		86.71
2008	6,905.04	54,589.60	59,043.38	1,178.73	1,642.03			2,914.56		1,085.04
2009	(73.75)	167,900.99	152,372.18	2,234.37	1,284.37			14,505.06		754.04
Totals	10,855.25	226,482.85	213,615.56	3,413.10	2,926.40			23,235.84		2,321.30

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—SEWER

YEAR	BEGIN TAX BALANCE	COMMITTED	PAYMENTS	ABATE/EXEMPT	REFUNDS	TAX TITLE	ADJUST- MENTS	ENDING TAX BALANCE	OTHER CHARGES	INTEREST
2003	(52.46)							(52.46)		
2004	(60.70)							(60.70)		
2005	(1,592.80)							(1,592.80)		
2006	(223.49)							(223.49)		
2007	(62.12)							(62.12)		
2008	19,601.35		12,266.30		351.62		0.86	7,685.81		360.90
2009		57,167.98	40,797.76	177.56	524.62			16,717.28		193.14
Totals	17,609.78	57,167.98	53,064.06	177.56	876.24		0.86	22,411.52		554.04

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—BOATS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>TAX TITLE</u>	<u>ADJUST-MENTS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
2007								878.00		
2008	342.00		178.00					164.00		
2009		1,796.50	1,429.50					367.00		
Totals	342.00	1,796.50	1,607.50					1,409.00		

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—DEALER REPAIR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>TAX TITLE</u>	<u>ADJUST-MENTS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
2009		1,300.00	400.00					900.00		
Totals		1,300.00	400.00					900.00		

FY2009 TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT—FARM ANIMAL & MACHINERY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGIN TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>COMMITTED</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>ABATE/EXEMPT</u>	<u>REFUNDS</u>	<u>TAX TITLE</u>	<u>ADJUST-MENTS</u>	<u>ENDING TAX BALANCE</u>	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
2009		520.23	339.75					180.48		
Totals		520.23	339.75					180.48		

TOWN CLERK FINANCIAL REPORT

Birth certificates	\$25.00
Death certificates	155.00
Marriage certificates	35.00
Marriage intentions	60.00
Special permits	300.00
ANR	650.00
Fuel storage	40.00
Zoning bylaws/street lists	20.00
Business certificates	200.00
Dog fees	1,370.00
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$2,855.00

TOWN MEETING MINUTES AND ELECTION RESULTS



Gill 6th graders conduct a mock town meeting. Left to right on stage: Matt Freeman, Krystal Cloutier, Fallyn Adams, Maggie Sroka, Allie Fortin, Clara Swartzentruber, and Julia Wallace. In front: Simon van Baaren.

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING January 7, 2009 7:00 p.m.

The Special Town Meeting was brought to order by the Moderator, Ray Steele. There were six people present. Selectman, Leland Stevens made a motion to continue the meeting to Monday evening, January 12, 2009 at 7p.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

Continuation of Special Town Meeting January 12, 2009 7:00 p.m.

1119 Registered Voters

53 Voters Present

The Moderator, Ray Steele opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 53 voters present.

Article 1: Move the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash \$677.50 to pay legal bills incurred by the Tax Collector from a prior year.

Passed Unanimously

Article 2: Move the Town vote to transfer \$5,000.00 from the Highway Machine Earnings Account to pay for repairs made to Highway Department equipment.

Passed Unanimously

Article 3: Move the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 6 (Cemetery Erosion Prevention) at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2008, to reduce the sum of money raised and appropriated there under by \$13,000.00.

Passed Unanimously

Article 4: Move the Town vote to transfer \$13,631.00 from the Building Inspector Stabilization Fund to the general Stabilization Fund.

Defeated

Article 5: Move the Town vote to transfer \$13,631.00 from the Stabilization Fund to support general operating expenses of the Town.

Required a 2/3 vote to pass:

Yes 24 No 23

Not a 2/3 vote therefore defeated

Article 6: Move the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 5 (Fire Truck Pump Repair) at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2008, to reduce the sum of money raised and appropriated there under by \$10,000.00.

Passed Unanimously

Article 7: Move the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 24 (Omnibus) at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2008, to increase and/or decrease the sums of money raised and appropriated for several departments pursuant to the results of the override election of January 6, 2009, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, by the following amounts:

Reduce Selectboard expense by \$150.00 (*no attendance at MMA conference*)

Reduce Administrative Assistant expense by \$200.00 (*no attendance at MMA conference*)

Reduce Accountant expense by \$1,000.00 (*reduces office supply expenses*)

Reduce Police Department salary by \$22,234.28 (*eliminates one full-time officer, adds \$10,000.00 more for part-time*)

Reduce Fire Department expense by \$5,000.00 (*reduces general expenses*)

Reduce Animal Control Officer salary by \$500.00 (*eliminates position*)

Reduce Highway Department expense by \$43,200.00 (*relies on more Chapter 90 funds for projects, reducing the number of projects completed for the year*)

Increase Solid Waste & Recycling expense by \$14,114.00 (*reflects increase in service due to new contract*)

Reduce Hazardous Waste Collection expense by \$850.00 (*eliminates Town subsidy of program*,

which already occurred in October)

Reduce Group Health & Life Insurance expense by \$11,954.29 (*projected savings due to elimination of one police officer*)

Reduce Town Insurance by \$8,739.00 (*actual savings by entering into new contract*).

Article Amended:

Move to reduce the police department by an additional \$6000.00, reduce the highway department by an additional \$4000.00 and take \$3,631.00 from free cash.

Amendment Passed Unanimously

Amended Article Passed Unanimously

Article 8: Move the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 25 (Regional School Assessment) at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2008, to increase the sums of money raised and appropriated there under by \$9,684.00.

Passed Unanimously

Article 9: Move the Town vote to pass the following non-binding resolution: As the state defined FY 2009 Gill Montague Regional School District assessment is unsustainable, we believe any increase in Gill's assessment next year is fiscally irresponsible. Therefore we, the Town Meeting Members of Gill, recognizing the serious budget constraints the Town, State and Nation are under presently and shall be for the foreseeable future, cannot and will not support a 2010 school assessment that is greater than the level set by the State this year, less reduction in local and school aid allocated for FY 2010.

Amended to read:

Article 9: Move the Town vote to pass the following non-binding resolution: As the state defined FY 2009 Gill Montague Regional School District assessment is unsustainable. Therefore we, the Town Meeting Members of Gill, recognizing the serious budget constraints the Town, State and Nation are under presently and shall be for the foreseeable future, urge the GMRSD to work closely with town representatives at all stages of development of its FY2010 budget.

Amendment Passed Unanimously

Amended Article Passed Unanimously

Article 10: Move the Town vote, pursuant Chapter 82A, §2 of Massachusetts General Law, to designate the Board of Selectmen as the appointing authority for the Board or officer responsible for the issuance of trench excavation permits pursuant to Chapter 82A, §4 and 520 CMR 14.00.

Passed Unanimously

Article 11: Move the Town vote to adopt the following Right to Farm bylaw, or take any action relative thereto:

Section 1 Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this by-law is to explain the existing Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97 of the Constitution and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9; Chapter 111, Section 125A; and Chapter 128, Section 1A. We the citizens of Gill restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town’s authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution (‘Home Rule Amendment’).

This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Gill by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.

Section 2 Existing Definitions

The word ‘farm’ shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land or water bodies used for the primary purpose of commercial or non-commercial agriculture or accessory thereto.

The words ‘farming’ and ‘agriculture’ or their derivatives shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;

- Dairying;
- Production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- Keeping and raising of poultry, horses, swine, cattle, bees, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes.

‘Farming’ shall encompass activities including but not limited to the following:

- Operation and transport of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the Town;
- Control of pests, including but not limited to insects, weeds, predators and disease organism of plants and animals;
- Application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- Conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- Processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer’s market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- Maintenance, repair or storage of seasonal equipment or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- On-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

Section 3 Right to Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist in the Town of Gill. The above-described agricul-

tural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and may include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protection of this By-law are intended to apply exclusively to these commercial agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right To Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, local zoning law or other local by-laws or regulations.

Section 4 Disclosure Notification

Within 30 days after this bylaw becomes effective the Select Board shall prominently post in the Town Hall and make available for distribution the following disclosure:

It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products and for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy is within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include but are not limited to activities that cause dust, noise and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that property located within the town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations.

In addition this disclosure notification will be made by the Agricultural Commission to the town residents each fiscal year via a town mailing or newsletter.

Section 5 Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the appropriate body depending upon the nature of the grievance, which may include the Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, or the Board of Health. The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have. The Zoning Enforcement Officer or Select Board shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance involving all concerned parties and report its recommendations to the referring Town authority within an agreed upon time frame.

The Board of Health shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance involving all concerned parties and report its recommendation to the Board of Health within an agreed upon time frame, except in cases of imminent danger or public health risk, wherein the Board of Health shall act immediately under its own authority.

Section 6 Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town of Gill hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

Passed Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

A True Copy. Attest:

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 4, 2009 7:00 p.m.

1055 Registered Voters

85 Voters Present

The Annual Town meeting opened at 7 PM with Raymond F. Steele as Moderator. Total population of Gill is 1,459 and the number of Registered voters is 1055. Tonight 85 voters came out for our Town Meeting.

Article 1: Move to hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town.

Additions:

Tax Collector's report on pages 106 and 107 in place of the original report.

Add Joe Naida to the list of Council on Aging members on page 29.

A dedication to Ed Pogoda was read by Anthony Mathews as follows:

DEDICATION TO ED POGODA

The Town of Gill lost a well loved member of its community this last fall, when Ed Pogoda of Pisgah Mountain Road died at the age of 89.

Ed was born in 1919 in Gill to Ludik and Stephanie Pogoda, and went to the Riverside School and Turners Falls High. He grew up farming, and the most important things in his life were always family, hard work and nature. He is probably best remembered for his sense of humor. He was good at getting things done without fuss or bull while, at the same time, making people feel welcome.

Ed joined the Army in March, 1942. He was in the 83rd Infantry, first as a machine gunnery instructor, and then fought his way across France, Belgium and Germany as a machine gunner. He lost a number of close friends while fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. Late in the war he helped liberate a concentration camp, an experience that clearly stayed with him after more than sixty years.

After the war, Ed came home and married his sweetheart Cle-mantine, known to everyone as Babe. He went to work as a carpen-

ter and built over 100 homes and businesses, mostly in Franklin and Hampshire counties. At his funeral, many people that he had taught carpentry to showed up, some from hundreds of miles away, to honor him.

The love of Ed's life was his wife, Babe. Almost every time I saw them together, Ed was smiling. Ed's farm (the one he grew up on) was in Gill, but Babe had a farm in North Hadley. Ed spent most of his time in Hadley even though he was always officially a resident of Gill. He and Babe made a great team, and people will remember them for doing things like going to polka dances and giving away strawberries to their friends and neighbors.

Ed was a longtime member of the Gill Building Committee and served on the Gill Conservation Commission for forty years. He liked being part of the town and was still attending meetings until just before he died.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Mathews*

Passed Unanimously

Article 2: Move to elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

Passed Unanimously

Article 3: 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 2010 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard 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 4: Move the Town vote to authorize the following revolving funds per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which revenues will be deposited into

the funds and expended to pay related costs under the direction of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed below, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year:

Dept. Authorized to Spend	Types of Receipts Credited	Amount of Funds Authorized
Fire Dept.	Oil Burner Inspection Fund	\$2,000.00
Town Clerk	Dog Fund	2,000.00
Cemetery Commission	Opening Fees	2,000.00
Conservation Commission	Consultant Fees	10,000.00

Passed Majority

Article 5: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Commission for Education in Gill, or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 6: Move the Town vote to request the Selectboard form a committee to study and recommend for consideration possible changes to the Gill Montague Regional School District Agreement (*Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with Respect to the Formation of a Regional School District*), or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 7: Move the Town vote to form a Regional School District Planning Committee pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71 §14 to study the fiscal and educational advisability of joining the Pioneer Valley Regional School District or adding any towns to the Gill Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 8: Move the Town vote to request that the Gill Montague

Regional School Committee draw up amendments to the Gill Montague Regional School District Agreement (*Agreement between the Towns of Montague and Gill with Respect to the Formation of a Regional School District*) setting forth the terms of Gill's withdrawal from the Gill Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion to Pass over - Passed Unanimously

Article 9: Move the Town vote to amend Section 16.D.17 of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws by adding the following language to the existing paragraph:

However, a Building Permit, but not a Special Permit or amendment, is required for any modifications to electronic components affixed to a previously approved and erected Wireless Communications Tower, provided the modifications do not substantially change the height, footprint or silhouette of the Tower as originally permitted. For the purposes of this Bylaw, electronic components shall include reception and transmission equipment and fixtures such as antennas, communication dishes, and similar devices.

Must Pass by 2/3 vote. Yes 73 No 7

Article 10: Move the Town vote to change the definition of "Restaurant" in Section 17 of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws to read "Restaurant: An establishment at which the principal activity is the preparation and retail sale of food or beverage." And further to remove the words "or coffee shops" from Items 7d and 7e in Section 2C, Table Use of Regulations, or take any action relative thereto.

Must Pass with a 2/3 vote - Passed Unanimously

Article 11: Move the Town vote to adopt Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 23A to authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town administrator, who may be appointed by the Selectboard for a term of one or three years and be removed by the Selectboard at its discretion, or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Majority

Article 12: Move the Town vote to adopt Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 22F to allow any municipal board or officer empowered to issue a license, permit, certificate, or to render a service or perform work for a person or class of persons to fix reasonable fees for all such licenses, permits, or certificates issued, or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Majority

Article 13: Move the Town vote to declare property located at 54 French King Highway, Map 101, Lot 14 on the Assessors' maps, known as the "Riverside Municipal Property", surplus, or take any action relative thereto.

Voted no Unanimously

Article 14: Move the Town vote to declare property located on Center Road, Map 212, Lot 30 on the Assessors' maps, known as the "Boyle Property", surplus, or take any action relative thereto.

Voted no Unanimously

A motion was made and seconded to continue the remainder of the Annual Town Meeting to June 16 at 7:00PM.

Continuation of Annual Town Meeting: The meeting was brought to order by the Moderator Ray Steele. There were 55 registered voters present.

Article 15: Move the Town vote to approve that, upon exceeding the levy limit, any monies appropriated that exceed the levy limit may be contingent upon the approval by the voters of an "Override of Proposition 2 ½ .

Move to Pass Over Passes Unanimously

Article 16: Move the Town vote to fix the salaries of all elected

officials for Fiscal Year 2010, and raise and appropriate from taxation any sum or sums therefore, and further raise and appropriate any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard.

Passed Unanimously

Article 17: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from available funds One Million Four Hundred Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,407,587.00) a sum of money for its assessed share of the Gill-Montague Regional School District Budget, all or some of which may be contingent upon an override ballot question.

Amendment: Move the Town vote to amend Article 17 by reducing the amount to One Million Three Hundred Sixty-three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,363,274.00)

Vote to Amend: Passed Unanimously

Vote for Amended Motion: Passed Unanimously

Article 18: Move the Town vote to transfer Sixty-Six Thousand Forty-Six and 70/100 Dollars (\$66,046.70) from Sewer Use Fees to Riverside Sewer System to offset Fiscal Year 2010 sewer expenses including the Tax Collector's salary as related to collecting sewer fees.

Passed Unanimously

Article 19: Move the Town vote to transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of Four Hundred Thirty Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$434.00) for use at the Gill Elementary School.

Passed Unanimously

Article 20: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation Eighteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$18,000.00) to create a "Building Maintenance and Repair Account".

Passed Unanimously

Article 21: Move the Town vote to create a Cops Hiring Recovery Program Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Move to Pass Over. Passes Unanimously

Article 22: Move the Town vote to accept the terms of the United States Department of Justice Cops Hiring Recovery Grant to hire an additional full-time police officer and, if granted, to transfer funds equivalent to one-quarter of the expected fourth year salary and benefits cost of that officer from the police department budget into the Cops Hiring Recovery Program Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Move to Pass Over. Passes Unanimously

Article 23: Move the Town vote to transfer Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty One and 00/100 Dollars (\$13,631.00) from the Building Inspector Assessment Stabilization Fund to create a new Building Inspector Assessment revolving Fund, per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for which building permit, wiring permit, and plumbing permit revenues will be deposited into the funds and expended to pay related costs for inspection services under the direction of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,0000), with all money remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Requires a 2/3 Vote

Passed by Majority, only one Nay

Vote to Rescind this Vote. Passes Unanimously

Article 24: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$750.00) to hire a consultant to conduct an “Other Post Employment Benefits” survey in compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 45.

Passed Unanimously

Article 25: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum of money to add to the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion to Pass Over. Passes Unanimously

Article 26: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation Fifteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00) to hire a consultant to conduct an independent financial audit.

Passed Unanimously

Motion to reconsider Article #23 Voted Rescinded and Article #23 Passed Over.

Article 27: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation Twenty Five Thousand 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) to make a loan payment on the Mariamante parcel.

Passed Unanimously

Article 28: Move the Town vote to transfer Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars from unappropriated funds to stabilization fund.

**Requires 2/3 vote.
Passed by Majority, 1 Nay**

Article 29: Move the Town vote to transfer One Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Eight and 50/100 Dollars (\$172,958.50) from unappropriated funds to be used to stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2010.

Passed Unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 P.M.
A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

June 16, 2009 6:00 p.m.

1047 Registered Voters

85 Voters Present

Article 1: Move to see if the Town will vote to transfer Eleven Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$11,000.00) from Sewer Use Fees to Riverside Sewer System to offset Fiscal Year 2009 sewer expenses including the Tax Collector's salary as related to collecting sewer fees.

Passed Unanimous

Article 2: To hear and act upon a report presented by Tighe & Bond Engineering Services relative to the Mariamante parcel.

Accepted

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept, for no consideration, a gift of land from the Franklin Land Trust, Inc. to the inhabitants of the Town of Gill consisting of approximately 162 acres on both sides of Hoe Shop Road, the north side of Bascom Road, and the south side of Dole Road for conservation purposes, or take any action relative thereto. The property is subject to a Conservation Restriction held by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

2/3 Vote Required

75 YES 10 NO

A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Monday, May 18, 2009

Selectman/Sewer Commissioner			
Leland Stevens	73		
John Ward	197		
Blank	1	.....	271
Board of Assessors—three-year term			
Nancy Griswold	182		
Blanks	89	.....	271
Board of Assessors—two-year term			
Ray Purington	227		
Blanks	44	.....	271
Cemetery Commissioner—three-year term			
Patricia Haigis	240		
Blanks	31	.....	271
Moderator—three-year term			
Ray Steele	240		
Blanks	31	.....	271
Tree Warden—three-year term			
Ernest Hastings	217		
Blanks	54	.....	271
Library Trustee—three-year term			
Ellen Johnson	238		
Blanks	33	.....	271
Board of Health—three-year term			
Randy Crochier	241		
Blanks	30	.....	271

Town Clerk—three-year term

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo	247	
Blanks	24	.....271

Gill Montague Regional School District—Gill

Valeria Smith	78	
Jennifer Waldron	182	
Blanks	11	.....271

A True Copy. Attest:
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

Notes:

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board/Committee	Day	Time
Agricultural Commission	1 st Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Board of Assessors	Alternate Mondays	6:30 p.m.
Assessors' Clerk	Mondays–Thursdays	9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Board of Health	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	5:00 p.m.
Cemetery Commission	3 rd Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Collector-Treasurer	Monday	9:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
	Tuesday–Thursday	9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission	1 st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Council on Aging	1 st Tuesday	1:00 p.m. (Montague Senior Center)
Fire Department	Every Thursday	7:00 p.m. (Fire Station)
Historical Commission	3 rd Tuesday	5:30 p.m. (Riverside Municipal Bldg.)
Planning Board	2 nd Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Recreation Committee	1 st Thursday	6:30 p.m.
Selectboard/ Sewer Commissioners	Alternate Mondays	4:30 p.m.
Administrative Assistant	Monday	9:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
	Tuesday–Thursday	9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Town Clerk	Monday–Thursday	1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
	Monday evenings	5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	2 nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT TOWN HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

TOWN TELEPHONE/E-MAIL DIRECTORY

Department	Telephone	E-mail
Board of Assessors	863-0138	assessors@gillmass.org
Board of Health	863-9347	health@gillmass.org
Cemetery Commission	863-9347	cemetery@gillmass.org
Collector-Treasurer	863-2105	collector-treasurer@gillmass.org
Conservation Commission	863-9347	conservation@gillmass.org
Council on Aging	863-9357	coa@gillmass.org
Cultural Council	863-2105	cultural@gillmass.org
Finance Committee	863-9347	finance@gillmass.org
Fire Department	863-8955	firedept@gillmass.org
Highway Department	863-2324	highway@gillmass.org
Historical Commission	863-8103	historical@gillmass.org
Library	863-2591	library@gillmass.org
Planning Department	863-9347	planning@gillmass.org
Police Department	863-9398	policedept@gillmass.org
Recreation Committee	863-9347	recreation@gillmass.org
Selectboard/ Sewer Commissioners	863-9347	administrator@gillmass.org
Town Clerk	863-8103	townclerk@gillmass.org
Veterans' Services	863-3205	
Zoning Board of Appeals	863-9347	zba@gillmass.org

*325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354-9758*

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