

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 7, 2012

To any of the Constables of the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Gill Town Hall in said Town on Monday, the Seventh day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Twelve (5/7/2012) at 7:00 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to dedicate this meeting to all Veterans in the Town of Gill, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to dedicate this meeting to all Veterans in the Town of Gill.

To those who have paid the ultimate price. To those who bear the scars of battle. To those who for life, carry the disabilities of time in service. To those who flew the darkened skies, who sailed on rough seas and served in far off lands. We today recognize the sacrifices you made, the commitment you have shown, and your unselfish devotion to duty defending the freedoms so often taken for granted.

Our goal is to honor people like you. From the time of our birth until now, our veterans have played a key role in the history of our great town and nation, and have contributed to where we are today.

Let us as a town always remember the men and women who answered the call.

This article was requested by the Memorial Committee.

Article 2: To hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 2.

The Annual Reports for FY 2010 and FY 2011 are significantly behind schedule. Completing both and starting the report for FY 2012 will be a priority for the Administrative Assistant during the coming summer months.

Article 3: To elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to elect Edward J. Golembeski and Clifford C. Hatch as Field Drivers and elect the Selectboard as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

Article 4: To see if the Town will accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2013 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.

Motion: Move the Town accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2013 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement.

Chapter 90 funds are given annually by the State to the Town, and are used for our road maintenance program – activities such as repaving asphalt roads or applying new oil & stone. The Town will receive \$152,121 for FY2013, which is down \$642 (0.4%) from FY2012.

Article 5: To see if the Town will 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 authorization 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, or take any action relative thereto:

Dept. Authorized to Spend	Types of Receipts Credited	Program/Purpose for which Funds may be Expended	Amount of Funds Authorized
Fire Dept.	Oil Burner Inspection Fees	Inspector & Etc.	\$2,000.00
Town Clerk	Dog Fees & Fines	Licenses, Dog Care & Control, & Etc.	2,000.00
Cemetery Commission	Opening Fees	Cemeteries & Caretaking	2,000.00
Conservation Commission	Consultant Fees	Project Review	10,000.00
Agricultural Commission	Farmers' Market & Ag Event Fees	Ag Programs	500.00
Energy Commission	Workshop and Program Fees	Energy Programs	1,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	ZBA Fees	Hearings & Expenses	2,000.00

Motion: Move the Town vote to authorize the listed 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 authorization of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year:

These are the same revolving funds approved last year, with addition of a revolving fund for the Zoning Board of Appeals. A revolving fund allows program fees to be used within the fiscal year for the purposes listed by the “department” that collects the fees.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to have the Gill Town Meeting Moderator appoint a committee to investigate revising the Regional Agreement between the member towns of the Gill-Montague Regional School District in order to change the composition and method of selecting the School Committee of said district, and direct the appointed committee to report to the next Town Meeting, special or annual, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to have the Gill Town Meeting Moderator appoint a committee to investigate revising the Regional Agreement between the member towns of the Gill-Montague Regional School District in order to change the composition and method of selecting the School Committee of said district, and direct the appointed committee to report to the next Town Meeting, special or annual.

A similar motion is being considered at Montague’s Annual Town Meeting.

Move to continue the remainder of the Annual Town Meeting to Tuesday, June 19th at 6:30PM.

The Town has not yet finished its budget process for Fiscal Year 2013. The Selectboard recommends continuing Annual Town Meeting to Tuesday, June 19th at 6:30PM, at which time the remaining articles will be presented.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, plus any cost of living adjustment (COLA) that may be provided by the Town:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$17.80
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$129.94
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$23.17
Selectboard Chair	\$2,463.40
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,239.52
Board of Assessors Chair	\$2,991.40
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,719.44
Board of Health Chair	\$1,328.73
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,216.80
Town Clerk	\$14,458.25
Tax Collector	\$19,698.92
Additional As Sewer Collector	\$618.75
Treasurer	\$16,557.06
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$55.25
Town Clerk	\$88.50

All amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2012. A COLA, if approved in Article 8, would be in addition to the amounts listed above. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, and 1 opposed.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,070.00 (Fifteen Thousand Seventy and 00/100 Dollars) to provide a 3.0% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials.

In January the Personnel Committee recommended a COLA of 3.3% to the Selectboard based upon the Consumer Price Index specified in the Town's personnel handbook. The 3.0% presented here is more in line with increases provided by Social Security and other local governments. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, and 0 opposed.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide 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, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise by taxation \$1,306,236.31 (One Million Three Hundred Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six and 31/100 Dollars) and transfer \$45,000.00 (Forty Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from Sewer Use Fees and appropriate \$34,042.00 (Thirty Four Thousand Forty Two and 00/100 Dollars) from Fiscal Year 2013 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$1,385,278.31 (One Million Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy and 31/100 Dollars) for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard.

Please see the separate handout (orange paper) for the Omnibus amounts. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, and 0 opposed.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2013 operating assessment and any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2013 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$1,408,058.00 (One Million Four Hundred Eight Thousand Fifty Eight and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,387,336.00 for its Fiscal Year 2013 operating assessment and \$20,722.00 for its Fiscal Year 2013 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Gill's share of the GMRSD's operating budget has increased by \$17,595 (1.3%) and the debt service for the high school/middle school renovation project decreased by \$13. The Selectboard and Finance Committee believe the District's assessment is reasonable and affordable, and commend Interim Superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, District staff, and School Committee for bringing forward such a fiscally responsible budget. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund and to pay the annual measurement and verification fee of the Energy Management Services Agreement with Siemens Industry, Inc, both relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,560.00 (Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty and 00/100 Dollars) to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund and to pay the annual measurement and verification fee of the Energy Management Services Agreement with Siemens Industry, Inc.

This amount represents the first of 16 annual payments to repay the \$127,500 bond taken out in August 2011 to finance energy improvements at the Gill Elementary School (authorized by the June 2010 Annual Town Meeting). The payments increase every year, with a first-year payment of \$4,500. The \$2,060 fee to Siemens is to perform the analysis of energy use data they require in order to keep in place their guarantee of energy savings. Energy savings from operating the school, totaling at least \$6,560, will be returned to the Town by the School District. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the repayment of principal, interest, and borrowing costs associated with the boiler replacement at the Public Safety Complex, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,155.00 (Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five and 00/100 Dollars) for the repayment of principal, interest, and borrowing costs associated with the boiler replacement at the Public Safety Complex.

This amount completes the repayment of a short-term loan authorized at the Special Town Meeting in January 2012. As agreed to in January, funds from the Building Maintenance account are being allocated here for this repayment. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to hire a consultant to conduct an independent financial audit, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$13,000.00 (Thirteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to hire a consultant to conduct an independent financial audit.

The last audit of the Town's accounts was performed in April 2010 for transactions through Fiscal Year 2009. For a town the size of Gill, a triennial audit is recommended by the Department of Revenue and the banks from which we borrow. This audit will encompass Fiscal Year 2012 and will take place in the early months of calendar year 2013. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$800.00 (Eight Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from the County Dog Fund to the Library Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer \$800.00 (Eight Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from the County Dog Fund (Account 257) to the Fiscal Year 2013 Library Account.

Annually, \$800 from dog license fees collected by the Town Clerk is transferred to the library to support its operating expenses. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money in addition to that provided in the Omnibus Budget to be used for the salaries of part-time police officers, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$14,356.86 (Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six and 86/100) in addition to that provided in the Omnibus Budget to be used for the salaries of part-time police officers.

This article will provide additional police coverage for the Town through the use of part-time officers, and is level-funded from the current year. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 2 in favor and 3 opposed.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to recommend to the Selectboard and Finance Committee that the salaries of part-time police officers be included within the Police Department line of the Omnibus Budget in Fiscal Year 2014 and subsequent years, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to recommend to the Selectboard and Finance Committee that the salaries of part-time police officers be included within the Police Department line of the Omnibus Budget in Fiscal Year 2014 and subsequent years.

This is the third consecutive year that supplemental funding for part-time police officers has appeared as a special article. Although it generates significant discussion during the budget process and at Town Meeting, in 2010 and 2011 the special articles were passed by Town Meeting voters. This article seeks the collective opinion of Town Meeting voters as to the continued use of a special article to provide supplemental funding. The Finance Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 2 in favor and 3 opposed.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

The Town voted to establish the CIPC at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Their second report to the Town is available today as a handout. Articles 18 – 23 were requested by the CIPC.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$33,000.00 (Thirty Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to purchase a police cruiser, in-car computer, and associated cruiser equipment for the police department, plus borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase, and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7, contingent upon a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion referendum.

Turned down for replacement last year, the 2004 Ford Explorer now has more than 97,500 miles on it, and is again being recommended for replacement. The new cruiser will most likely be Dodge Charger. The Explorer will be used by the highway department, but will also be available to the police and fire departments for emergencies and driving conditions that require 4-wheel-drive. The highway department's 1999 Chevy Blazer will be disposed of as surplus equipment. The police department has two other cruisers – a 2005 Crown Vic (83,000+ miles) and a 2008 Crown Vic (65,000+ miles).

If this article is approved (2/3 majority needed), a debt exclusion vote will be scheduled, most likely to coincide with the September 6th State Primary Election. If the debt exclusion is passed, the money for the cruiser will be borrowed over a 3-year term, with repayments in Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, and 2016. An interest rate of 2% is anticipated. The cruiser would add approximately 8-cents to the tax rate (currently \$14.55/thousand), and cost the average single-family homeowner \$16.20 per year for three years.

The Finance Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 2 in favor and 3 opposed.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install replacement interior doors and locksets for the Gill Elementary School, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 19.

Because of new information received in early June (after the CIPC had finalized its report), the School has withdrawn its request for funding this project. It has been determined that two-sided door locks for the classrooms are not recommended at this time, and that replacing the existing doors is not necessary. A project to retrofit 6 interior doors with ADA-compliant lever handles will be funded from the Building Maintenance account. The Finance Committee recommends passing over this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase a brush chipper and associated equipment for the highway department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 20.

The existing brush chipper is a heavily used and important piece of equipment for the Highway Department. However, the Selectboard and Finance Committee feel that due to the overall financial condition of the Town and its taxpayers, a new chipper is not recommended this year. The current chipper has been well maintained, and while tired, still performs its purpose. Some maintenance and repairs are expected, but the chipper will need to be kept functioning for at least one more year. The Finance Committee recommends passing over this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install a roof and perform related maintenance to the roof and cupola of the Town Hall, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$73,000.00 (Seventy Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to purchase and install a roof and perform related maintenance to the roof and cupola of the Town Hall, plus borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase, and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7, contingent upon a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion referendum.

Alternate Motion – if Special Town Meeting transfer is approved: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$68,000.00 (Sixty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to purchase and install a roof and perform related maintenance to the roof and cupola of the Town Hall, plus borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase, and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in accordance

with MGL Chapter 44, §7, contingent upon a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion referendum; said amount to supplement the Five Thousand Dollars already approved for the project, for a project total of \$73,000.00 (Seventy Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars).

The current roof on Town Hall was installed in 1978, and is well past the life expectancy of the asphalt shingles. A recent leak has been repaired, but without action soon, more leaks should be expected. A new roof for this building is the Town's highest capital priority at this time.

A 24-gauge pre-finished steel standing seam roof is the recommended replacement material. Although asphalt shingles and slate were also considered, a metal roof is preferred because of its overall value, performance, expected life, low maintenance costs, and end-of-use recyclability. While it's unknown if this building ever had a metal roof, metal is a historically acceptable choice.

If this article is approved (2/3 majority needed), a debt exclusion vote will be scheduled, most likely to coincide with the September 6th State Primary Election. If the debt exclusion is passed, the money for the roof will be borrowed over a 3-year term, with repayments in Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, and 2016. An interest rate of 2% is anticipated. The roof would add approximately 17-cents to the tax rate (currently \$14.55/thousand), and cost the average single-family homeowner \$35.83 per year for three years.

If the Special Town Meeting transfer of \$5,000 is approved, the motion will reduce the amount of the debt exclusion to \$68,000. In that case, the tax rate impact is approximately 16-cents, and the annual cost to the average single-family homeowner is \$33.37 per year for three years.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install a roof and perform related maintenance to the roof of the Public Safety Complex, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 22.

This article was placed on the warrant out of a concern that the 30-year-old membrane roof at the Public Safety Complex had deteriorated to the point that immediate replacement was needed. An architect recently completed a study of the roofs on the five Town-owned buildings (Gill Elementary School, Slate Memorial Library, Town Hall, Public Safety Complex, and Riverside Municipal Building) and concluded that the membrane material on the Public Safety Complex roof is still flexible and seems to be well adhered in most areas. Yearly inspections will be performed to check the condition of the membrane, and repairs made as needed. It is hoped that the membrane may last another 5 years or more. The Finance Committee recommends passing over this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to fund the Capital Stabilization Fund, all or some of which may be contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ Override as allowed under MGL c. 40 §5B, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 23.

Although the budget presented to Town Meeting does not include money to be added to the Capital Stabilization Fund, the Capital Improvement Stabilization Committee requested this article to keep a focus on the critical need for the Town to continue funding and saving toward capital projects. The estimated average annual cost to maintain buildings and replace equipment is daunting. A consistent revenue stream and savings plan for capital projects are both important. In round figures, there is currently \$28,000 in the Capital Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee recommends passing over this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$4,000.00 (Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) for the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward a portion of the cost of an appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$4,000.00 (Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) for the First Light Appraisal account to be used toward a portion of the cost of a future appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company.

Every three years the Department of Revenue requires the Assessors to obtain a new appraisal of the value of the Gill portion of the Turners Falls Dam, as well as other property in Gill owned by FirstLight. This article adds to the account for saving toward the next appraisal. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$3,500.00 (Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the Board of Assessors Triennial Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$3,500.00 (Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) for the Board of Assessors' Triennial Revaluation account.

Fiscal Year 2014 will be the next triennial recertification year for Gill, in which the Department of Revenue will review and certify property values town wide. Because of the added level of research and analysis, the Assessors incur extra costs during revaluation years. This article continues saving toward the next revaluation. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for one or more of the Stabilization Funds of the Town, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 26.

No money is currently available to be added to the various stabilization funds, but depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, this may change. In round figures, there is currently \$132,000 in the Stabilization Fund, \$38,000 in the Education Stabilization Fund, and \$28,000 in the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2013, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer \$93,726.00 (Ninety Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Six and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), and further transfer \$7,593.35 (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three and 35/100) from Released Overlay, for a total of \$101,319.35 (One Hundred One Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and 35/100 Dollars) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2013.

Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the FY 2013 tax rate. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 28: To see if the Town will 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," or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 28.

The motions that are presented in this handout will result in a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2013, and will not require a Proposition 2 ½ Override. Debt Exclusion votes are needed, however.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

And, you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; The Gill Store & Tavern, Main Road; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, in said Town seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.

Given under our hand this 23rd day of April in the year Two Thousand Twelve (4/23/2012).

Selectboard of Gill

_____, Chair

_____, Board member

_____, Board member

A true copy Attest:

_____, Town Clerk

Date: _____

Individuals who may need auxiliary aids for effective communication for this meeting should call the Gill Town Hall at (413) 863-9347 or MA Relay System at (800) 439-2370.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Gill by posting up attested copies of the same at Town Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; Gill Store & Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, seven days before the date hereof, as within directed.

_____ Constable of Gill

Date: _____

Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) - Article 8

Note: If approved, COLA will be implemented by applying a percentage increase to each employee's hourly rate or voted salary/stipend.

	A	B	C	D	E
	Position/Department	FY12 Salaries	FY13 Recommended Base (Including Steps & Long.)	3.0% COLA Amount on Salaries	FY13 Total (Base + COLA)
1	Moderator	176.27	199.45	5.99	205.44
2	Selectboard	6,943.58	6,942.44	208.28	7,150.72
3	Constables	87.85	125.00	3.75	128.75
4	Administrative Assistant	47,502.61	47,502.00	1,425.05	48,927.05
5	Board of Assessors	8,430.35	8,430.28	252.91	8,683.19
6	Assessors' Clerk	17,420.00	18,127.20	543.82	18,671.02
7	Treasurer	16,557.06	16,557.06	496.72	17,053.78
8	Tax Collector	19,698.92	19,698.92	590.97	20,289.89
9	From Sewer Receipts	618.75	618.75	18.57	637.32
10	Town Clerk	14,458.25	14,458.25	433.75	14,892.00
11	Registrars, Election Workers	2,026.00	3,435.00	103.05	3,538.05
12	Clerical Assistant	4,027.92	4,028.64	120.86	4,149.50
13	Custodian	2,622.82	2,213.68	66.42	2,280.10
14	Police Department	136,910.42	136,776.99	4,103.31	140,880.30
15	Fire Department	36,262.71	36,262.71	1,087.89	37,350.60
16	Highway/Sewer Department	161,106.70	167,057.25	5,011.72	172,068.97
17	Board of Health, Animal Insp.	4,562.57	4,562.57	136.88	4,699.45
18	Library	10,795.96	15,335.32	460.06	15,795.38
19	Total	490,208.74	502,331.51	15,070.00	517,401.51

Article 9 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/12	FY12	FY13	Increase /	%	Notes
	Annual Town Meeting Continuation	Approved		(Decrease)	Change	
		with COLA				
1	GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
2	Moderator Salary	176.27	199.45	23.18	13.2%	Adds 1 additional Spec. Town Mtg
3	Selectboard Salaries	6,943.58	6,942.44	(1.14)		
4	Selectboard Expenses	2,800.28	2,802.00	1.72		
5	Administrative Assistant (Salary & Exp.)	48,152.61	48,152.00	(0.61)		
6	Finance Committee	150.00	150.00	-		
7	Reserve Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00	-		
8	Accountant Expenses	200.00	200.00	-		
9	Assessors Salaries	8,430.35	8,430.28	(0.07)		
10	Assessors Clerical & Expenses	26,755.22	28,542.49	1,787.27	6.7%	Step raise & contracted services
11	Treasurer Salary	16,557.06	16,557.06	-		
12	Treasurer Expenses	6,750.00	6,555.00	(195.00)	-2.9%	
13	Tax Collector Salary	19,698.92	19,698.92	-		
14	Tax Collector Expenses	8,336.00	8,292.00	(44.00)	-0.5%	
15	Legal	5,000.00	5,000.00	-		
16	IT Committee	1,700.00	1,700.00	-		
17	Town Clerk Salary	14,458.25	14,458.25	-		
18	Town Clerk Expenses	5,350.00	5,550.00	200.00	3.7%	
19	Electors/Registrars	2,026.00	4,000.00	1,974.00	97.4%	State Primary w/ Debt Exclusion ballot, Pres. Elect.
20	Conservation Commission	915.55	916.00	0.45		
21	Agricultural Commission	200.00	200.00	-		
22	Planning Board	1,751.64	1,752.00	0.36		
23	Zoning Board of Appeals	1,942.18	1,943.00	0.82		
24	Energy Commission	200.00	200.00	-		
25	Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations	25,940.46	25,667.00	(273.46)	-1.1%	
26	Building Repairs & Maintenance	16,715.40	16,955.00	239.60	1.4%	
27	Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations	28,000.00	17,845.00	(10,155.00)	-36.3%	Decrease is shifted to Article 12 to pay off PSC boiler loan
28	GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	250,649.77	244,207.89	(6,441.88)	-2.6%	
29						
30	PUBLIC SAFETY					
31	Police Department	163,366.99	163,366.99	-		
32	Fire Department	67,766.79	67,766.79	-		
33	PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	231,133.78	231,133.78	-	0.0%	
34						

Article 9 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/12	FY12	FY13	Increase /	%	Notes
	Annual Town Meeting Continuation	Approved		(Decrease)	Change	
		with COLA				
35	PUBLIC WORKS					
36	Trees and Forestry	3,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	66.7%	Add'l contracted services to remove "difficult" trees
37	Highway Department	203,069.14	214,211.14	11,142.00	5.5%	Step raise, increase in mat'l costs & contracted services
38	Highway Dep't. - Snow & Ice Removal	53,316.39	53,317.00	0.61		
39	Dump Truck Debt Payment	30,159.00	29,106.00	(1,053.00)	-3.5%	Lower interest costs
40	Bridges and Street Lights	5,950.00	5,750.00	(200.00)	-3.4%	No longer paying for bridge lights
41	Solid Waste & Recycling	72,686.00	67,604.00	(5,082.00)	-7.0%	New 2-year contract
42	Solid Waste District	3,168.00	3,321.00	153.00	4.8%	
43	Sewer	67,740.24	79,042.00	11,301.76	16.7%	Incr. # gallons of sewage sent to Montague for treatment
44	Cemetery Commission	4,100.00	4,500.00	400.00	9.8%	Add'l mowing cost due to new fence @ West Gill Cemetery
45	Memorial Committee	645.00	645.00	-		
46	PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	443,833.77	462,496.14	18,662.37	0.84	
47						
48	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
49	Board of Health Salaries	3,762.35	3,762.33	(0.02)		
50	Board of Health Clerical & Expenses	5,587.77	4,987.79	(599.98)	-10.7%	\$600 to FRCOG Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health
51	Council on Aging	5,569.28	5,589.00	19.72	0.4%	
52	Veterans Assessment	2,082.00	2,323.00	241.00	11.6%	
53	Veterans Benefits	3,359.64	4,000.00	640.36	19.1%	
54	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL	20,361.04	20,662.12	301.08	1.5%	
55						
56	CULTURE & RECREATION					
57	Library	18,928.32	22,247.00	3,318.68	17.5%	Step raise for Director; Add'l 4 hours/week library is open
58	Recreation Commission	3,000.00	3,000.00	-		
59	Historical Commission	860.00	860.00	-		
60	CULTURE & RECREATION TOTAL	22,788.32	26,107.00	3,318.68	14.6%	
61						
62	FIXED COSTS					
63	Town Insurance	38,039.00	39,307.00	1,268.00	3.3%	
64	Mariamante Loan	15,830.24	15,217.90	(612.34)	-3.9%	
65	Retirement	67,641.00	74,238.00	6,597.00	9.8%	
66	Unemployment Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	-		
67	Group Health and Life Insurance	82,979.48	83,063.48	84.00	0.1%	
68	FIXED COSTS TOTAL	206,989.72	214,326.38	7,336.66	3.5%	
69						

Article 9 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Omnibus Budget for 6/19/12	FY12	FY13	Increase /	%	Notes
	Annual Town Meeting Continuation	Approved		(Decrease)	Change	
		with COLA				
70	FRCOG ASSESSMENT					
71	Core & Statutory Assessments	9,967.00	10,376.00	409.00	4.1%	
72	Accounting	18,367.00	18,663.00	296.00	1.6%	
73	Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health	6,204.00	6,804.00	600.00	9.7%	\$600 added from Board of Health line
74	Regional Emerg. Preparedness	100.00	100.00	-		
75	Procurement Services	2,381.00	-	(2,381.00)	-100.0%	Procurement is budgeted within departments that use it
76	Cooperative Inspection Program	37,213.00	6,500.00	(30,713.00)	-82.5%	Change to assessment formula - FRCOG keeps permit fees
77	FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL	74,232.00	42,443.00	(31,789.00)	-42.8%	
78						
79	EDUCATION					
80	Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.	Special Article	Special Article			
81	GMRSD Bldg Loan	Special Article	Special Article			
82	Franklin County Technical School	133,985.00	143,902.00	9,917.00	7.4%	Gill's enrollment increased from 13 to 14 students
83	EDUCATION TOTAL	133,985.00	143,902.00	9,917.00	7.4%	
84						
85	OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL	1,383,973.40	1,385,278.31	1,304.91	0.1%	
86	Less Use of Bldg Insp Stabilization	9,171.45	-			
87	Less Transfer of Sewer User Fees	67,600.09	45,000.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
88	Less Estimated Sewer Receipts	-	34,042.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
89	TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION	1,307,201.86	1,306,236.31	(965.55)	-0.1%	

Supplemental Info for Article 9 - Omnibus Budget
Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2013

	A	B	C	D	E
		Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013	Dollar Change	Percent Change
1	Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)	1,374,801.95	1,385,278.31	10,476.36	0.8%
2	Warrant Articles	69,459.68	67,441.86	(2,017.82)	-2.9%
3	Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)	61,561.78	61,483.00	(78.78)	-0.1%
4	Total Town Budget	1,505,823.41	1,514,203.17	8,379.76	0.6%
5	GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)	1,390,476.00	1,408,058.00	17,582.00	1.3%
6	Total Gross Budget	2,896,299.41	2,922,261.17	25,961.76	0.9%
7	State Receipts	216,801.00	234,005.00	17,204.00	7.9%
8	Local Receipts	225,290.58	216,000.00	(9,290.58)	-4.1%
9	Available Funds	96,166.53	94,935.35	(1,231.18)	-1.3%
10	Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate	147,814.00	93,726.00	(54,088.00)	-36.6%
11	Total Receipts	686,072.11	638,666.35	(47,405.76)	-6.9%
12	Total Gross Budget	2,896,299.41	2,922,261.17	25,961.76	0.9%
13	Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)	686,072.11	638,666.35	(47,405.76)	-6.9%
14	Property Tax Assessment	2,210,227.30	2,283,594.82	73,367.52	3.3%
15	Town-wide Property Valuation (FY13 is in process)	151,905,656	151,905,656	-	0.0%
16	Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation)	14.55	15.03	0.48	3.3%
17	Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence	211,000	211,000	-	0.0%
18	Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence	3,070	3,172	102	3.3%