

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: OCTOBER 15, 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 Fifteenth day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Twelve (10/15/2012) at 6:00 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 in accordance with MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E½ for the receipts related to the Town's recycling program and expenditures for the operation of the Town's solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products, to be under the authority of the Board of Selectmen and not to exceed \$10,000 in expenditures in FY13, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 1.

This article was intended to establish a new revolving fund to hold Gill's share of recycling revenue that is received from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. The revolving fund would be used much like the current escrow fund that the District has for Gill - for purchasing recycling bins for residents, purchasing recycled-content photocopy paper for the Town, disposing of Town-generated hazardous and electronic waste, and paying the annual membership in the District.

Although this article has been in the works for 2 months and had been previously supported by local advisors for the Mass. Department of Revenue (DOR), the District received a decision on October 11th from the DOR's Tax Counsel advising against the mid-year creation of the revolving fund. Although the District and our Town Counsel disagree with the DOR decision, they recommend passing over the article. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to amend or rescind the vote taken under Article 11 (Energy Bond and Siemens annual fee) at the Annual Town Meeting on June 19, 2012, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 11 (Energy Bond and Siemens annual fee) at the Annual Town Meeting on June 19, 2012.

Article 11 from the Annual Town Meeting approved \$4,500 for a payment on the bond used to finance the new boiler and other energy improvements at Gill Elementary School last year. An additional \$2,060 was approved as the fee for Siemens to perform the annual energy analysis they require in order to keep in place their guaranteed energy savings for the project.

In August it was determined that during the budgeting process we inadvertently omitted \$2,158.65 that is needed to pay this year's interest on the energy bond. Also in August we learned that because of when the boiler project was completed, the \$2,060 payment to Siemens is not needed this fiscal year. The net impact of these two offsetting amounts is a need to appropriate an additional \$98.65.

Because the original Article 11 listed different purposes than what is needed now, it must be rescinded (simple majority vote). Tonight's Article 3 will then re-appropriate the correct amounts of money to the correct purposes. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 3: 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 supplemental interest associated with said bond, 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 \$6,658.65 (Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Eight and 65/100 Dollars) to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund and to pay the supplemental interest associated with said bond.

The total amount is comprised of \$4,500 for the bond, and \$2,158.65 for the supplemental interest on the bond. The 1.15% supplemental interest is paid to Greenfield Cooperative Bank, which purchased the bond, and is in addition to the bond repayment. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$90.00 (Ninety and 00/100 Dollars) to fully fund the 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$90.00 (Ninety and 00/100 Dollars) to fully fund the 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer.

During the Annual Town Meeting there was a successful amendment that added \$1,000 each to the salaries of the elected Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer. The corresponding 3% COLA on the salary increases was not included in the total amount approved for COLAs. This article raises the \$90 needed to fully fund the Town's COLA obligation. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for Tree & Forestry Expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for Tree & Forestry Expenses.

A summertime analysis of prior years' Tree & Forestry expenses indicated that the current \$3,000 budget is not adequate for the amount of work that needs to be done each year. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money to increase the public hours of the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$1,905.00 (One Thousand Nine Hundred Five and 00/100 Dollars) to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for the Slate Memorial Library to increase public hours.

This sum of money will allow the Library to be open an additional 4 hours per week for the remaining 8 ½ months of this fiscal year. The cost of the additional hours is calculated using the Assistant Director's wage rate. Expanded public hours were a top request in a survey conducted by the Library last year. Currently open Tuesdays from 2-6pm, Thursdays from 2-8pm, and Saturdays from 10am-2pm, it is likely that the Library's new hours will be on Wednesdays from 2-6pm. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$928.00 (Nine Hundred Twenty Eight and 00/100 Dollars) to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for the Slate Memorial Library.

During this year's budget process it was determined that the Library's two staff positions (Director and Assistant Director) are not on the Town's wage scale for employees. This has meant that those employees have received non-COLA wage increases at irregular intervals and much less frequent than other non-elected Town employees. The Personnel Committee has reviewed the responsibilities of both positions and made a recommendation to the Selectboard that the Director be a Grade 4 and the Assistant Director a Grade 3 on the wage scale.

The \$928 sum will fund increases to both positions retroactive to July 1, 2012. The Director's wage will increase from \$15.45 to \$16.61/hour and the Assistant's from \$12.50 to \$12.79/hour. It is felt that these new wages are in line with comparable positions in the Franklin County area. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for the Cemetery Commission, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$400.00 (Four Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) to supplement the Fiscal Year 2013 operating budget for the Cemetery Commission.

The \$400 sum of money will allow the Cemetery Commission to keep pace with the rising costs of lawn care and maintenance of the Town's three cemeteries. Low interest rates over the last few years have meant a decline in earnings from the Commission's perpetual care funds and this increase will help offset that loss. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any 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 the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,754.00 (Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Four and 00/100 Dollars) and transfer \$3,321.00 (Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One and 00/100 Dollars) from the Solid Waste District FY13 operating budget (Account 001-433-5420), for a total of \$8,075.00 (Eight Thousand Seventy Five and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Stabilization Fund.

There is currently \$133,002 in the Stabilization Fund, and this article will add another \$8,075 to that total. Based on the amounts presented in the other articles of this Special Town Meeting, the \$4,754 represents the remaining figure the Town can raise through taxation and still stay below its levy limit.

The \$3,321 that is being transferred from the Solid Waste District budget is available the Town's \$3,321 membership assessment for the District this year will be paid using money held by the District in an escrow fund for Gill.

If any of the articles of this Special Town Meeting are amended or defeated, the Selectboard anticipates adjusting this Stabilization Fund amount accordingly in order to maintain a balanced budget that does not require an override. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

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 fourteen 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 Twenty Fourth day of September in the year Two Thousand Twelve.

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, fourteen days before the date hereof, as within directed.

_____ Constable of Gill

Date: _____