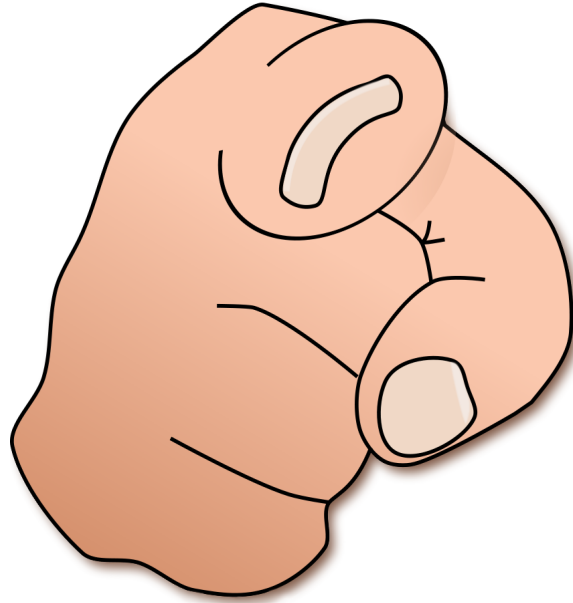


# WE WANT YOU!



# WE NEED YOU!

The Town is always looking for residents who might be able to volunteer for one of Gill's many boards, committees, councils and commissions. If you think you might be interested in joining any of these groups, please contact the Chair, or contact Ray Purington at 863-9347.

Agricultural Commission (Steve Damon, 863-2850)

Cable Advisory Committee (Rick James, 863-9192 or Janet Masucci, 863-2381)

Conservation Commission (Chris Polatin, 863-9808)

Cultural Council (Laura Carboni, 834-0738)

Energy Commission (Claire Chang, 626-3620)

Recreation Committee (Nathan Duda, 522-3209)

Zoning Board of Appeals (Suzanne Smiley, 863-8174)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: JUNE 11, 2013

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 Tuesday, the Eleventh day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen (6/11/2013) at 6:30 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2013 Unemployment Insurance Account (number 913) to the Unemployment Trust Fund (number 814), or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$2,500.00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2013 Unemployment Insurance Account (number 913) to the Unemployment Trust Fund (number 814).

*The Town appropriates this money each year within the Omnibus Budget to cover any small amounts of unemployment claims that may come up during the year. At the end of the year, the amount remaining should be transferred to the trust fund in order save against any future large claims. The trust fund balance is presently \$46,122. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2013 Snow & Ice Removal Account (number 423) to the Fiscal Year 2013 General Highway Account (number 422), or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$10,800.00 (Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2013 Snow and Ice Removal Expense Account (number 423) to the Fiscal Year 2013 General Highway Expense Account (number 422).

*The requested sum is the amount the Highway Superintendent expects to need in order to cover department expenses through the end of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from Released Overlay to the Fiscal Year 2013 Interest on Temporary Loans Account (number 752), or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$1,934.86 (One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Four and 86/100 Dollars) from Released Overlay to the Fiscal Year 2013 Interest on Temporary Loans Account (number 752).

*The need for this transfer arose out of a court decision on Verizon's statewide appeal (Gill was just one of many towns) of their 2009 Personal Property Taxes. The Assessors were able to issue the abatement of \$6,856.33 from that year's Overlay Reserve. However the \$1,934.86 of accumulated interest going back to 2009 cannot come from the Overlay Reserve. There is enough money in the Released Overlay fund to cover this amount, but it does require Town Meeting action. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Fiscal Year 2013 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account (number 192) to be used toward a portion of the cost to pave the driveway, parking lot, and bus turnaround (basketball court) at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2013 Town Building Repairs & Maintenance Account (number 192) to be used toward a portion of the cost to pave the driveway, parking lot, and bus turnaround (basketball court) at the Gill Elementary School.

*Article 20 asks for approval of a paving project at the Gill Elementary School, to be paid from Free Cash. Because there is unspent money from the current year's Building Repairs & Maintenance account, it is proposed that those funds be re-appropriated to help pay for this project. If this transfer is approved, the amount requested in Article 20 can be reduced from \$50,000 to \$45,000. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

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**Article 5:** To hear and act upon the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved to pass over Article 5.

*Annual Reports are significantly behind schedule. They will again be a priority for the Selectboard and Administrative Assistant during the coming summer months.*

**Article 6:** 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:** It is moved 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 7:** 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 2014 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:** It is moved 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 2014 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 initially receive \$113,862 for FY2014, and may receive as much as \$227,724 once the Governor and Legislature resolve their differences. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2014, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2014, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School.

*Quintus Allen was an original trustee of the Greenfield Savings Bank. Upon his death in 1884, he established a trust fund to be used for education-related expenses in several towns, including Gill. The interest earned by the Trust is distributed each year. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 9:** 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. Spend                               | Authorized to | Types of Receipts Credited      | Program/Purpose for which Funds may be Expended                                                     | Maximum Annual Expenditures |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fire Dept.                                |               | Oil Burner Inspection Fees      | Inspector & Etc.                                                                                    | \$2,000.00                  |
| Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer        |               | Dog Fees & Fines                | Licenses, Dog Care & Control, & Etc.                                                                | 4,000.00                    |
| 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                    |
| Board of Health, Administrative Assistant |               | Recycling Program Revenue       | Solid waste & recycling programs, Solid Waste District membership, recycled-content office products | 5,000.00                    |

**Motion:** It is moved 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 Recycling Program Revenue – the money the Town receives from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for the sale of curbside recyclables. A revolving fund allows program fees to be used within the fiscal year for the purposes listed by the “department” that collects the fees. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 10:** 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:** It is moved 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                    | \$18.34     |
| Moderator – Annual Town Meeting                | \$133.84    |
| Special Town Meeting, Each                     | \$23.87     |
| Selectboard Chair                              | \$2,537.32  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each | \$2,306.72  |
| Board of Assessors Chair                       | \$3,081.13  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each | \$2,801.03  |
| Board of Health Chair                          | \$1,368.60  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Each | \$1,253.31  |
| Town Clerk                                     | \$15,922.00 |
| Tax Collector                                  | \$21,319.89 |
| Additional As Sewer Collector                  | \$637.32    |
| Treasurer                                      | \$18,083.78 |
| Registrars – Three members, Each               | \$56.91     |
| Town Clerk                                     | \$91.16     |

*All amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2013. A COLA, if approved in Article 11, would be in addition to the amounts listed above. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 11:** 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 Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,631.00 (Eight Thousand Six Hundred Thirty One and 00/100 Dollars) to provide a 1.7% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials, excepting the Boards of Selectmen, Assessors, and Health, who shall receive no COLA.

*In January the Personnel Committee recommended a COLA of 1.7% to the Selectboard based upon the Social Security increase being granted for 2013. The Selectboard, Board of Assessors, and Board of Health each voted to not receive the COLA this year. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 12:** 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:** It is moved the Town vote to raise by taxation \$1,377,437.17 (One Million Three Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven and 17/100 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 2014 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$1,456,479.17 (One Million Four Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Nine and 17/100 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 (legal-sized paper) for the Omnibus amounts. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 13:** 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 2014 operating assessment and any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2014 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$1,439,343.00 (One Million Four Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty Three and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,419,256.00 for its Fiscal Year 2014 operating assessment and \$20,087.00 for its Fiscal Year 2014 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

*Gill's assessment for the GMRSD's operating budget has increased by \$31,920 (2.3%) and the debt service for the high school/middle school renovation project decreased by \$635. The Selectboard and Finance Committee believe the figures are reasonable and affordable, and commend the District for bringing forward another fiscally responsible budget. A separate handout on the District's budget is available. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 14:** 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 be used toward a portion of the cost to conduct an independent financial audit of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,500.00 (Four Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) to be used toward a portion of the cost to conduct an independent financial audit of the Town.

*The audit of Fiscal Year 2012 is in progress, with a report expected this summer. This Article begins to set aside funds to pay for the Town's next audit to be conducted three years from now. Funding a third of the cost each year will help smooth out the budget from year to year. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$359.11 (Three Hundred Fifty Nine and 11/100 Dollars) from the County Dog Fund, and \$57.00 (Fifty Seven and 00/100 Dollars) from the Due to County Dog Officer Fund, for a total of \$416.11 (Four Hundred Sixteen and 11/100) to the Fiscal Year 2014 Library Account, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$359.11 (Three Hundred Fifty Nine and 11/100 Dollars) from the County Dog Fund, and \$57.00 (Fifty Seven and 00/100 Dollars) from the Due to County Dog Officer Fund, for a total of \$416.11 (Four Hundred Sixteen and 11/100) to the Fiscal Year 2014 Library Account.

*The County Dog Fund dates back to 2006 and before, and received dog license fees collected by the Town Clerk in connection with the County Dog Officer program. When that program was discontinued, towns were allowed to appropriate the funds to support their libraries. In past years Gill has transferred \$800 to the Library, but the transfer this year will completely deplete the County Dog Fund accounts. The Library budget has been increased to offset the difference between the traditional \$800 and what was left in the County funds.*

*Although the Town has its own Dog Revolving Fund which receives dog license fees collected by the Town Clerk, the Town will need to use that money for its involvement with the Regional Dog Kennel and to meet requirements related to recent changes in Animal Control laws.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 16:** 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 be used for the Fiscal Year 2014 assessment for the Cooperative Public Health Service, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,206.00 (Ten Thousand Two Hundred Six and 00/100 Dollars) to be used for the Fiscal Year 2014 assessment for the Cooperative Public Health Service.

*Fiscal Year 2013 was the first year of the 8-town Cooperative Public Health Service, and was a very successful year. CPHS staff – a Health Agent and a Public Health Nurse – worked in Gill performing housing, summer camp, retail food, and Title-5 (septic systems) inspections, securing Brownfields grant funding, and conducting flu vaccination clinics at the Town Hall and Gill Elementary School for 47 residents.*

*While the Selectboard is strongly supportive of Gill's continued involvement in the CPHS, Gill's assessment for Fiscal Year 2014 will increase from \$6,804 to \$10,206, and the Selectboard felt that a separate Article was warranted to allow for discussion. The increase in the assessment is caused by a reduction in the grants that funded the program's start-up costs.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 17:** 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 be used for the Fiscal Year 2014 operations of the Recreation Committee and its programs, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be used for the Fiscal Year 2014 operations of the Recreation Committee and its programs.

*The Recreation Committee currently has only one member, which is nowhere near enough to organize and run recreational programs for the children in Gill. If residents are willing to step forward and join the Committee and revive its programs, this Article can provide continued funding in Fiscal Year 2014. Even without this Article, the Recreation Revolving Fund has \$5,046 that is also available to a reconstituted Committee to resume their programs. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 18:** 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:** It is moved 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. This year's report will be presented during tonight's meeting. Articles 19 and 20 were requested by the CIPC.*

**Article 19:** 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 dump truck with sander and plow and wing plow and related accessories for the Highway 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:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$155,000.00 (One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to purchase a dump truck with sander and plow and related accessories for the Highway 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.

*A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.*

*This Article seeks approval to replace the oldest of the Town's three large dump trucks – a 1990 Ford with over 8,000 hours of operation. The newest truck was purchased in 2008, and the 5-year loan will be paid off in Fiscal Year 2014. If this Article passes, and a subsequent debt exclusion ballot question is approved, the new truck will be purchased and the first payment will not be due until Fiscal Year 2015. Using an estimated interest rate of 2%, the truck would add approximately 23-cents to the tax rate (currently \$15.34/thousand), and cost the average single-family homeowner \$46.30 per year for five years.*

*The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor, and \_\_\_ 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 pave with bituminous concrete the driveway, parking lot, and bus turnaround (basketball court) and to perform any related grinding, excavation or re-grading at 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:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to pave with bituminous concrete the driveway, parking lot, and bus turnaround (basketball court) and to perform any related grinding, excavation or re-grading at the Gill Elementary School.

*The Gill Elementary School is the most heavily used of our Town-owned buildings, and its paved surfaces are showing the cumulative effects of years of use. While the driveway and parking areas have been patched and repaired over the years, it is time to re-pave it all, to protect the base layers from any further deterioration. As part of this project, the pavement on the basketball court will be improved to withstand the weight of the school buses that now park there during arrival and dismissal. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$2,000.00 (Two 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:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$2,000.00 (Two 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.

*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 \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the Board of Assessors Triennial Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) for the Board of Assessors’ Triennial Revaluation account.

*Fiscal Year 2014 is 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 in Fiscal Year 2017. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 23:** 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 (Capital, Education, or General), or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$20,336.95 (Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Six and 95/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Education Stabilization Fund, and further transfer from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Education Stabilization Fund, and further transfer from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Capital Stabilization Fund, and further transfer from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$63,000.00 (Sixty Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Stabilization Fund.

*A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.*

*There is currently \$38,538 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$28,129 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$141,324 in the Stabilization Fund.*

*If any of the articles of Annual Town Meeting are amended or defeated, the Selectboard anticipates adjusting these Stabilization Funds amounts accordingly in order to maintain a balanced budget that does not require an override. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money or sums of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) or other available funds to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2014, or take any action relative thereto.

**Motion:** It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$68,000.00 (Sixty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), and further transfer \$7,871.34 (Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy One and 34/100) from Released Overlay, for a total of \$75,871.34 (Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy One and 34/100 Dollars) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2014.

*Depending on the outcomes of the other “money” articles, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2014 tax rate. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ opposed.*

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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June in the year Two Thousand Thirteen (6/3/2013).

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

|    | <b>A</b>                                  | <b>B</b>          | <b>C</b>          | <b>D</b>           | <b>E</b>          | <b>F</b>      | <b>G</b>                                                 | <b>H</b>             |
|----|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|    | Omnibus Budget for 6/11/2013              | <b>FY12</b>       | <b>FY13</b>       | <b>FY14</b>        | <b>Increase /</b> | <b>%</b>      | <b>Notes</b>                                             | <b>FY14</b>          |
|    | Annual Town Meeting                       | <b>Approved</b>   | <b>Approved</b>   | <b>Selectboard</b> | <b>(Decrease)</b> | <b>Change</b> |                                                          | <b>Finance Comm.</b> |
|    |                                           | <b>with COLA</b>  | <b>with COLA</b>  | <b>Recommended</b> | <b>( D - C )</b>  |               |                                                          | <b>Recommended</b>   |
| 1  | <b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>                 |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 2  | Moderator Salary                          | 176.27            | 205.44            | 325.45             | 120.01            | 58.4%         | Adds funds for training                                  |                      |
| 3  | Selectboard Salaries                      | 6,943.58          | 7,150.72          | 7,150.76           | 0.04              |               |                                                          |                      |
| 4  | Selectboard Expenses                      | 2,800.28          | 2,805.75          | 2,802.00           | (3.75)            | -0.1%         |                                                          |                      |
| 5  | Administrative Assistant (Salary & Exp.)  | 48,152.61         | 49,577.05         | 51,549.00          | 1,971.95          | 4.0%          | Step raise                                               |                      |
| 6  | Finance Committee                         | 150.00            | 150.00            | 150.00             | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 7  | Reserve Fund                              | 1,500.00          | 1,500.00          | 1,500.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 8  | Accountant Expenses                       | 200.00            | 200.00            | 200.00             | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 9  | Assessors Salaries                        | 8,430.35          | 8,683.19          | 8,683.19           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 10 | Assessors Clerical & Expenses             | 26,755.22         | 29,086.31         | 29,148.40          | 62.09             | 0.2%          |                                                          |                      |
| 11 | Treasurer Salary                          | 16,557.06         | 18,083.78         | 18,083.78          | (0.00)            |               |                                                          |                      |
| 12 | Treasurer Expenses                        | 6,750.00          | 6,555.00          | 6,805.00           | 250.00            | 3.8%          |                                                          |                      |
| 13 | Tax Collector Salary                      | 19,698.92         | 21,319.89         | 21,319.89          | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 14 | Tax Collector Expenses                    | 8,336.00          | 8,292.00          | 8,333.00           | 41.00             | 0.5%          |                                                          |                      |
| 15 | Legal                                     | 5,000.00          | 5,000.00          | 5,000.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 16 | IT Committee                              | 1,700.00          | 1,700.00          | 2,050.00           | 350.00            | 20.6%         | Increase is to replace one printer                       |                      |
| 17 | Town Clerk Salary                         | 14,458.25         | 15,922.00         | 15,922.00          | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 18 | Town Clerk Expenses                       | 5,350.00          | 5,550.00          | 3,635.00           | (1,915.00)        | -34.5%        | Fewer primaries & elections in FY14                      |                      |
| 19 | Electors/Registrars                       | 2,026.00          | 4,103.05          | 1,600.00           | (2,503.05)        | -61.0%        | Fewer primaries & elections in FY14                      |                      |
| 20 | Conservation Commission                   | 915.55            | 926.08            | 821.00             | (105.08)          | -11.3%        | Reduced clerical hours                                   |                      |
| 21 | Agricultural Commission                   | 200.00            | 200.00            | 200.00             | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 22 | Planning Board                            | 1,751.64          | 1,782.21          | 1,823.00           | 40.79             | 2.3%          |                                                          |                      |
| 23 | Zoning Board of Appeals                   | 1,942.18          | 1,983.29          | 1,638.00           | (345.29)          | -17.4%        | Reduction in advertising & postage due to Revolving Fund |                      |
| 24 | Energy Commission                         | 200.00            | 200.00            | 500.00             | 300.00            | 150.0%        | Increase will fund more workshops & energy events        |                      |
| 25 | Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations       | 25,940.46         | 25,725.11         | 24,927.00          | (798.11)          | -3.1%         |                                                          |                      |
| 26 | Building Repairs & Maintenance            | 28,000.00         | 17,845.00         | 18,000.00          | 155.00            | 0.9%          |                                                          |                      |
| 27 | Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations      | 16,715.40         | 16,955.00         | 18,598.00          | 1,643.00          | 9.7%          | Heating oil was inadequately funded in prior years       |                      |
| 28 | <b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>           | <b>250,649.77</b> | <b>251,500.87</b> | <b>250,764.47</b>  | <b>(736.40)</b>   | <b>-0.3%</b>  |                                                          | <b>-</b>             |
| 29 |                                           |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 30 | <b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>                      |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 31 | Police Department (incl. FY12/13 article) | 177,723.85        | 181,827.16        | 181,827.00         | (0.16)            |               |                                                          |                      |
| 32 | Fire Department                           | 67,766.79         | 68,854.68         | 74,129.00          | 5,274.32          | 7.7%          | Vehicle & equipment repairs/replacement; fuel costs      |                      |
| 33 | <b>PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL</b>                | <b>245,490.64</b> | <b>250,681.84</b> | <b>255,956.00</b>  | <b>5,274.16</b>   | <b>2.1%</b>   |                                                          | <b>-</b>             |
| 34 |                                           |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

|    | <b>A</b>                                 | <b>B</b>          | <b>C</b>          | <b>D</b>           | <b>E</b>          | <b>F</b>      | <b>G</b>                                                 | <b>H</b>             |
|----|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|    | Omnibus Budget for 6/11/2013             | <b>FY12</b>       | <b>FY13</b>       | <b>FY14</b>        | <b>Increase /</b> | <b>%</b>      | <b>Notes</b>                                             | <b>FY14</b>          |
|    | Annual Town Meeting                      | <b>Approved</b>   | <b>Approved</b>   | <b>Selectboard</b> | <b>(Decrease)</b> | <b>Change</b> |                                                          | <b>Finance Comm.</b> |
|    |                                          | <b>with COLA</b>  | <b>with COLA</b>  | <b>Recommended</b> | <b>( D - C )</b>  |               |                                                          | <b>Recommended</b>   |
| 35 | <b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>                      |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 36 | Trees and Forestry                       | 3,000.00          | 6,026.25          | 6,000.00           | (26.25)           | -0.4%         |                                                          |                      |
| 37 | Highway Department                       | 203,069.14        | 209,554.06        | 236,139.00         | 26,584.94         | 12.7%         | Materials, hired equipment,machinery repairs, step raise |                      |
| 38 | Highway Dep't. - Snow & Ice Removal      | 53,316.39         | 53,650.48         | 53,651.00          | 0.52              |               |                                                          |                      |
| 39 | Bridges and Street Lights                | 5,950.00          | 5,750.00          | 5,750.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 40 | Solid Waste & Recycling                  | 72,686.00         | 67,604.00         | 68,504.00          | 900.00            | 1.3%          |                                                          |                      |
| 41 | Solid Waste District                     | 3,168.00          |                   |                    | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 42 | Sewer                                    | 67,740.24         | 79,369.64         | 79,042.00          | (327.64)          | -0.4%         |                                                          |                      |
| 43 | Cemetery Commission                      | 4,100.00          | 4,500.00          | 4,500.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 44 | Memorial Committee                       | 645.00            | 645.00            | 693.00             | 48.00             | 7.4%          | Replacement flag holders                                 |                      |
| 45 | <b>PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL</b>                | <b>413,674.77</b> | <b>427,099.43</b> | <b>454,279.00</b>  | <b>27,179.57</b>  | <b>6.4%</b>   |                                                          | <b>-</b>             |
| 46 |                                          |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 47 | <b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES</b>       |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 48 | Board of Health Salaries                 | 3,762.35          | 3,875.20          | 3,875.22           | 0.02              |               |                                                          |                      |
| 49 | Board of Health Clerical & Expenses      | 5,587.77          | 5,052.08          | 2,813.25           | (2,238.83)        | -44.3%        | Coop. Public Health Services now handling inspections    |                      |
| 50 | Council on Aging                         | 5,569.28          | 5,589.00          | 5,676.00           | 87.00             | 1.6%          |                                                          |                      |
| 51 | Veterans Assessment                      | 2,082.00          | 2,323.00          | 2,323.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 52 | Veterans Benefits                        | 3,359.64          | 4,000.00          | 4,000.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 53 | <b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL</b> | <b>20,361.04</b>  | <b>20,839.28</b>  | <b>18,687.47</b>   | <b>(2,151.81)</b> | <b>-10.3%</b> |                                                          | <b>-</b>             |
| 54 |                                          |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 55 | <b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>          |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 56 | Library                                  | 18,928.32         | 23,008.37         | 23,461.00          | 452.63            | 2.0%          | Increase offsets reduction from Dog Fund transfer        |                      |
| 57 | Recreation Commission                    | 3,000.00          | 3,000.00          | -                  | (3,000.00)        | -100.0%       | To be discussed & voted under Article 17                 |                      |
| 58 | Historical Commission                    | 860.00            | 860.00            | 860.00             | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 59 | <b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION TOTAL</b>    | <b>22,788.32</b>  | <b>26,868.37</b>  | <b>24,321.00</b>   | <b>(2,547.37)</b> | <b>-9.5%</b>  |                                                          | <b>-</b>             |
| 60 |                                          |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 61 | <b>FIXED COSTS</b>                       |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 62 | Town Insurance                           | 38,039.00         | 39,307.00         | 39,404.00          | 97.00             | 0.2%          |                                                          |                      |
| 63 | Mariamante Loan (debt excl)              | 15,830.24         | 15,217.90         | 14,594.00          | (623.90)          | -4.1%         | Lower interest costs                                     |                      |
| 64 | Dump Truck Debt Payment (debt excl)      | 30,159.00         | 29,106.00         | 28,053.00          | (1,053.00)        | -3.6%         | Lower interest costs                                     |                      |
| 65 | Energy Bond & Performance Audit          | -                 | 6,658.65          | 9,026.26           |                   |               |                                                          |                      |
| 66 | Retirement                               | 67,641.00         | 74,238.00         | 80,595.00          | 6,357.00          | 8.6%          | Franklin Regional Retirement System assessment           |                      |
| 67 | Unemployment Fund                        | 2,500.00          | 2,500.00          | 2,500.00           | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 68 | Group Health and Life Insurance          | 82,979.48         | 83,063.48         | 83,063.48          | -                 |               |                                                          |                      |
| 69 | Police Cruiser Loan (debt excl)          | -                 |                   | 11,455.49          | 11,455.49         | 100.0%        | First year of a 3-year loan                              |                      |
| 70 | Town Hall Roof Loan (debt excl)          | -                 |                   | 16,672.00          | 16,672.00         | 100.0%        | First year of a 3-year loan                              |                      |
| 71 | <b>FIXED COSTS TOTAL</b>                 | <b>237,148.72</b> | <b>250,091.03</b> | <b>285,363.23</b>  | <b>35,272.20</b>  | <b>14.1%</b>  |                                                          | <b>-</b>             |
| 72 |                                          |                   |                   |                    |                   |               |                                                          |                      |

**Article 12 - Omnibus Budget**

|    | <b>A</b>                                | <b>B</b>            | <b>C</b>            | <b>D</b>            | <b>E</b>           | <b>F</b>      | <b>G</b>                                                   | <b>H</b>             |
|----|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
|    | Omnibus Budget for 6/11/2013            | <b>FY12</b>         | <b>FY13</b>         | <b>FY14</b>         | <b>Increase /</b>  | <b>%</b>      | <b>Notes</b>                                               | <b>FY14</b>          |
|    | Annual Town Meeting                     | <b>Approved</b>     | <b>Approved</b>     | <b>Selectboard</b>  | <b>(Decrease)</b>  | <b>Change</b> |                                                            | <b>Finance Comm.</b> |
|    |                                         | <b>with COLA</b>    | <b>with COLA</b>    | <b>Recommended</b>  | <b>( D - C )</b>   |               |                                                            | <b>Recommended</b>   |
| 73 | <b>FRCOG ASSESSMENT</b>                 |                     |                     |                     |                    |               |                                                            |                      |
| 74 | Core & Statutory Assessments            | 9,967.00            | 10,376.00           | 11,146.00           | 770.00             | 7.4%          | Wages, benefits, increases to retirees' Unfunded Liability |                      |
| 75 | Accounting                              | 18,367.00           | 18,663.00           | 19,436.00           | 773.00             | 4.1%          | Software, wages, benefits                                  |                      |
| 76 | Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health  | 6,204.00            | 6,804.00            | -                   | (6,804.00)         | -100.0%       | To be discussed & voted under Article 16                   |                      |
| 77 | Regional Emerg. Preparedness            | 100.00              | 100.00              | 100.00              | -                  |               |                                                            |                      |
| 78 | Procurement Services                    | 2,381.00            |                     | -                   | -                  |               |                                                            |                      |
| 79 | Cooperative Inspection Program          | 37,213.00           | 6,500.00            | 6,500.00            | -                  |               |                                                            |                      |
| 80 | FCCIP offset by Bldg Insp Stabilization | (9,171.45)          |                     | -                   |                    |               |                                                            |                      |
| 81 | <b>FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL</b>           | <b>65,060.55</b>    | <b>42,443.00</b>    | <b>37,182.00</b>    | <b>(5,261.00)</b>  | <b>-12.4%</b> |                                                            | <b>-</b>             |
| 82 |                                         |                     |                     |                     |                    |               |                                                            |                      |
| 83 | <b>EDUCATION</b>                        |                     |                     |                     |                    |               |                                                            |                      |
| 84 | Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.           | Special Article     | Special Article     | Special Article     |                    |               |                                                            | Special Article      |
| 85 | GMRSD Bldg Loan                         | Special Article     | Special Article     | Special Article     |                    |               |                                                            | Special Article      |
| 86 | Franklin County Technical School        | 133,985.00          | 143,902.00          | 129,926.00          | (13,976.00)        | -9.7%         | Gill's enrollment decreased from 14 to 12 students         |                      |
| 87 | <b>EDUCATION TOTAL</b>                  | <b>133,985.00</b>   | <b>143,902.00</b>   | <b>129,926.00</b>   | <b>(13,976.00)</b> | <b>-9.7%</b>  |                                                            | <b>-</b>             |
| 88 |                                         |                     |                     |                     |                    |               |                                                            |                      |
| 89 | <b>OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL</b>             | <b>1,389,158.81</b> | <b>1,413,425.82</b> | <b>1,456,479.17</b> | <b>43,053.35</b>   | <b>3.0%</b>   |                                                            | <b>-</b>             |
| 90 | Less Use of Bldg Insp Stabilization     | 9,171.45            | -                   | -                   |                    |               |                                                            | -                    |
| 91 | Less Transfer of Sewer Use Fees         | 67,600.09           | 45,000.00           | 45,000.00           |                    |               | Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget                 | 45,000.00            |
| 92 | Less Estimated Sewer Receipts           | -                   | 34,042.00           | 34,042.00           |                    |               | Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget                 | 34,042.00            |
| 93 | <b>TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION</b>         | <b>1,312,387.27</b> | <b>1,368,425.82</b> | <b>1,377,437.17</b> | <b>9,011.35</b>    | <b>0.7%</b>   |                                                            | <b>(79,042.00)</b>   |

Supplemental Info for Article 12 - Omnibus Budget  
**Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2014**

|    | <b>A</b>                                            | <b>B</b>            | <b>C</b>            | <b>D</b>                          | <b>E</b>          | <b>F</b>          |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|    |                                                     | Fiscal Year 2012    | Fiscal Year 2013    | Selectboard's<br>Fiscal Year 2014 | Dollar<br>Change  | Percent<br>Change |
| 1  | Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)                    | 1,389,158.81        | 1,413,425.82        | 1,456,479.17                      | 43,053.35         | 3.0%              |
| 2  | Warrant Articles                                    | 55,102.82           | 39,530.00           | 192,090.06                        | 152,560.06        | 385.9%            |
| 3  | Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)      | 61,561.78           | 59,616.62           | 61,102.00                         | 1,485.38          | 2.5%              |
| 4  | <b>Total Town Budget</b>                            | <b>1,505,823.41</b> | <b>1,512,572.44</b> | <b>1,709,671.23</b>               | <b>197,098.79</b> | <b>13.0%</b>      |
| 5  | GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)          | 1,390,476.00        | 1,408,058.00        | 1,439,343.00                      | 31,285.00         | 2.2%              |
| 6  | <b>Total Gross Budget</b>                           | <b>2,896,299.41</b> | <b>2,920,630.44</b> | <b>3,149,014.23</b>               | <b>228,383.79</b> | <b>7.8%</b>       |
| 7  | State Receipts                                      | 216,801.00          | 234,005.00          | 233,492.00                        | (513.00)          | -0.2%             |
| 8  | Local Receipts                                      | 225,290.58          | 208,990.00          | 233,000.00                        | 24,010.00         | 11.5%             |
| 9  | Available Funds                                     | 96,166.53           | 94,935.35           | 235,329.45                        | 140,394.10        | 147.9%            |
| 10 | Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate                    | 147,814.00          | 93,726.00           | 68,000.00                         | (25,726.00)       | -27.4%            |
| 11 | <b>Total Receipts</b>                               | <b>686,072.11</b>   | <b>631,656.35</b>   | <b>769,821.45</b>                 | <b>138,165.10</b> | <b>21.9%</b>      |
| 12 | Total Gross Budget                                  | 2,896,299.41        | 2,920,630.44        | 3,149,014.23                      | 228,383.79        | 7.8%              |
| 13 | Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)           | 686,072.11          | 631,656.35          | 769,821.45                        | 138,165.10        | 21.9%             |
| 14 | <b>Property Tax Assessment</b>                      | <b>2,210,227.30</b> | <b>2,288,974.09</b> | <b>2,379,192.78</b>               | <b>90,218.69</b>  | <b>3.9%</b>       |
| 15 | Town-wide Property Valuation (FY14 is in process)   | 151,905,656         | 149,216,042         | 149,216,042                       | -                 | 0.0%              |
| 16 | Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation) | <b>14.55</b>        | <b>15.34</b>        | <b>15.94</b>                      | <b>0.60</b>       | <b>3.9%</b>       |
| 17 | Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence        | 208,300             | 202,600             | 202,600                           | -                 | 0.0%              |
| 18 | Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence     | 3,031               | 3,108               | 3,230                             | 122               | 3.9%              |