

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: FEBRUARY 22, 2016

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 22nd day of February, in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen (02/22/2016) at 7:00 PM then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$15,017.20 (Fifteen Thousand Seventeen and 20/100 Dollars) from Free Cash to the Sewer Use Fees account (a.k.a. WWTP Fund, account number 610) or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$15,017.20 (Fifteen Thousand Seventeen and 20/100 Dollars) from Free Cash to the Sewer Use Fees account (a.k.a. WWTP Fund, account number 610).

\$15,017.20 is the amount that remained unspent in the operating budget for the Riverside sewer system when FY15 ended on June 30, 2015. Normally this leftover money would be returned to the Sewer Fund, but that step was accidentally overlooked, and it became part of the Town's Free Cash that was certified by the Department of Revenue in October. Because the operating budget for the sewer system comes from the Sewer Fund, this money needs to be transferred back to the Sewer Fund.

The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$18,000.00 (Eighteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) in addition to the \$50,000 previously appropriated to purchase and set up a used single-axle dump truck with an all-season body, plow, wing plow, and related accessories for the Highway Department, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$18,000.00 (Eighteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the amount (\$50,000) previously appropriated to purchase and set up a used single-axle dump truck with an all-season body, plow, wing plow, and related accessories for the Highway Department.

Town Meeting approved \$50,000 last June to purchase, equip, and make-ready a used 2009 Sterling highway truck. After paying for the truck and some initial repairs, there is \$10,078 left in the budget. However, we still need to pay a vendor for some extensive winter-ready repairs (\$15,350), a new plow (\$9,800), and automatic chains (\$2,812 – the ones it came with couldn't be repaired). That's \$27,962 of known expenses against \$10,078 of funds – a shortfall of \$17,884.

The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,000.00 (Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) in addition to the \$13,141 previously appropriated to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,000.00 (Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to add to the amount (\$13,141) previously appropriated to remediate water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Slate Memorial Library.

Town Meeting approved \$13,141 last June to fund a project that will remove excess moisture from the Library's basement. The approved amount was the exact amount of the vendor's quote, and did not include any extra funds for contingencies that might come up. The project was not able to be started last year, and the vendor has since notified us of a \$704 increase. Some electrical wiring is necessary for the new pump system, and air filter/dehumidifier. The additional funds will cover the price increase and wiring, plus provide some extra for the unexpected things that often come up during work in an old basement.

The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

Article 4: 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 fund legal representation and technical assistance related to the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU), and in related legal and permit proceedings, or other uses as deemed appropriate by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to fund legal representation and technical assistance related to the Kinder Morgan/ Tennessee Gas Pipeline application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU), and related legal and permit proceedings, or other uses as deemed appropriate by the Selectboard.

Northeast Energy Direct (NED) is a large natural gas pipeline expansion project first proposed in 2014 by Kinder Morgan Energy's subsidiary, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. As currently proposed, the 30-inch diameter, 321-mile long pipeline will pass through eight Franklin County towns – Ashfield, Conway, Shelburne, Deerfield, Montague, Erving, Northfield, and Warwick – on its route from gas fields in Pennsylvania to a transmission hub in Dracut, MA, north of Lowell. The NED's formal application to FERC was made on November 20, 2015.

On December 23, 2015 the Selectboard filed a Motion to Intervene with the FERC in the Tennessee Gas Pipeline's application. If intervenor status is granted, the Town will have legal standing in the application proceedings. In its Motion to Intervene, the Town expressed concerns regarding the environmental, safety, and socioeconomic impacts of the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project, and the short- and long-term impacts that the proposed pipeline project could have in our community. There has been no cost to the Town for these actions.

The Town did not file for intervenor status in the Mass. DPU proceedings as that process was expected to cost money, and no funds have so far been appropriated for pipeline-related expenses. The Selectboard believes when it comes to spending the Town's money on this issue, it is important for Town Meeting voters to first take a position on the matter.

The Selectboard and Finance Committee took no votes on this article. Both agreed that if voters approve any amount in this article, the same amount should be subtracted from what is proposed to go into Stabilization in Article 5.

Article 5: 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, Energy, 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 \$28,000 (Twenty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the General Stabilization Fund. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

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

There is currently \$208,470 in the General Stabilization Fund. If any of the other four articles are amended or defeated, the Selectboard anticipates adjusting the amount in this article accordingly.

The balances in the Town's other stabilization funds are \$138,823 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$48,252 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$4,867 in the Energy Stabilization Fund.

The Selectboard recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, and the Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

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 4th day of February in the year Two Thousand Sixteen.

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: _____

Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2016						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FEBRUARY 22, 2016	Fiscal Year 2014	Fiscal Year 2015	Selectboard & Fin. Comm. Fiscal Year 2016	Dollar Change	Percent Change
1	Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)	1,477,350.17	1,443,865.61	1,426,166.76	(17,698.85)	-1.2%
2	Warrant Articles	171,219.06	183,819.00	183,871.00	52.00	0.0%
3	Feb STM Art. 1 - N/A (Free Cash sewer correction)					
4	Feb STM Art. 2 - Highway truck supplemental			18,000.00		
5	Feb STM Art. 3 - Library basement supplemental			4,000.00		
6	Feb STM Art. 4 - Pipeline					
7	Feb STM Art. 5 - Into General Stabilization			28,000.00		
8	Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)	63,603.36	80,022.00	76,321.75	(3,700.25)	-4.6%
9	Total Town Budget	1,712,172.59	1,707,706.61	1,736,359.51	28,652.90	1.7%
10	GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)	1,439,343.00	1,458,438.00	1,584,937.00	126,499.00	8.7%
11	Total Gross Budget	3,151,515.59	3,166,144.61	3,321,296.51	155,151.90	4.9%
12	State Receipts	238,691.00	265,306.00	275,406.00	10,100.00	3.8%
13	Local Receipts	227,000.00	227,200.00	223,400.00	(3,800.00)	-1.7%
14	Available Funds	233,294.45	189,739.00	257,135.00	67,396.00	35.5%
15	Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate	68,000.00	68,000.00	68,000.00	-	0.0%
16	Total Receipts	766,985.45	750,245.00	823,941.00	73,696.00	9.8%
17	Total Gross Budget	3,151,515.59	3,166,144.61	3,321,296.51	155,151.90	4.9%
18	Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)	766,985.45	750,245.00	823,941.00	73,696.00	9.8%
19	Property Tax Assessment	2,384,530.14	2,415,899.61	2,497,355.51	81,455.90	3.4%
20	Town-wide Property Valuation	142,105,491	143,353,073	147,336,608	3,983,535.00	2.8%
21	Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation)	16.78	16.85	16.95	0.10	0.6%
22	Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence	192,000	192,000	194,461	2,461.00	1.3%
23	Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence	3,222	3,236	3,296	60	1.9%
24	Maximum Levy Limit			2,573,986.74		
25	Amount to Levy in Taxes			2,497,355.51		
26	Excess Capacity (must be positive)			76,631.23		