

June 5, 2017
Annual Town Meeting (part 2)
& Special Town Meeting



**Please use the microphone
when recognized to speak.**

It greatly improves the audio quality of the recording, which is kept as an archival record of the meeting.

Volunteers Wanted

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 (Brian Koshinsky, 325-3281)

Council on Aging (Bev Demars, 863-4792)

Energy Commission (Vicky Jenkins, 325-5722)

Finance Committee (Timmie Smith, 863-9873)

Franklin County Tech School Committee Rep. (Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, 863-8103)

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 1, 2017

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 First day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen (5/1/2017) at 7:00 PM then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: 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 1.

Progress is being made. Annual Reports for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2013 are currently being printed by the Print Shop at the Franklin County Jail. Reports for 2010 and 2012 will be completed this summer.

Article 2: 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 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2018 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, 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 vote to accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2018 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, applying new oil & stone, grading gravel roads, and drainage and guardrail projects. The Town will receive \$148,714 for Fiscal Year 2018.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to grant an easement for the encroachment of an existing trailer, garage, and shed on Assessors' Map 101, Lot 88, 2 Oak Street, Gill, Massachusetts, onto the right of way for Oak Street as established by the Town of Gill and as further shown on a survey entitled, "Plan of Easement prepared for Robert Callery & Carol Lee Glazer located in Gill, Massachusetts" by Daniel L. Warner, Professional Land Surveyor dated March 21, 2017, with said easement allowing for the maintenance and repair but not replacement of the structures, and with said easement or portions thereof expiring upon the demolition or removal of the building(s), and to execute all documents necessary in connection therewith; or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to grant an easement for the encroachment of an existing trailer, garage, and shed on Assessors' Map 101, Lot 88, 2 Oak Street, Gill, Massachusetts, onto the right of way for Oak Street as established by the Town of Gill and as further shown on a survey entitled, "Plan of Easement prepared for Robert Callery & Carol Lee Glazer located in Gill, Massachusetts" by Daniel L. Warner, Professional Land Surveyor dated March 21, 2017, with said easement allowing for the maintenance and repair but not replacement of the structures, and with said easement or portions thereof expiring upon the demolition or removal of the building(s), and to execute all documents necessary in connection therewith.

The proposed easement was requested by Robert Callery, the current owner of 2 Oak Street, after a planned sale of the property fell through when the potential buyer learned of the structures' encroachment into the Town-owned right of way. The easement area is shown on the attached survey (printed on the back of page 5). The structures are believed to date to the 1960s and before.

The easement will allow for normal residential uses of the structures. The current and future owners will be allowed to maintain and repair the structures. Replacing or expanding the structures will not be allowed unless the work conforms to the Town's Zoning Bylaws, including the minimum required setbacks from property lines. The easement will also reserve the rights of the Town and Riverside Water District to maintain their underground sewer and water lines.

Throughout their discussions of the encroachment and easement, the Selectboard have repeatedly stated that the granting of this easement is not meant to set a precedent, and that any future issues of encroachment by other properties will be handled on a case by case basis.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2018, 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 vote to accept any sum of money that might be made available from the Quintus Allen Trust during Fiscal Year 2018, 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 Colrain, Gill, Leyden, and Shelburne. The interest earned by the Trust is distributed to those towns each year. The Town received \$1,841 from the Trust this year, and there is a balance of \$11,466 in the Town's Quintus Allen account. So far this year, the Gill Elementary School has not used Quintus Allen money for any activities.

In recent years the School has used the Quintus Allen funds for:

- 2016 Climbing Wall & Gear (\$1,329.21)
- 2015 Nature Program Coordinator & Equipment (\$2,915.60)
- 2014 Student Clay Tile Mural (\$1,920.59)
- 2014 Stipend for Afterschool ACT Play Assistant (\$250.00)
- 2012 Soccer Goals and Sports Equipment (\$1,351.59)
- 2011 Artist-in-Residence, all-school performance of scripts written by each class (\$3,000.00)
- 2009 Upgrade to Electrical Panel to allow for a computer lab and classroom computers (\$6,625.00)

Article 6: 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 as recommended by the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed, with all unspent money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year:

This is the same list of revolving funds that was approved last year. A revolving fund allows program fees to be used within the fiscal year for the purposes listed by the "department" that collects the fees.

Motion: It is moved to continue the remainder of the Annual Town Meeting to Monday, June 5, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Gill Town Hall.

The Town has not yet finished its budget process for Fiscal Year 2018. The Selectboard recommends continuing Annual Town Meeting to a later date, at which time the remaining articles will be presented. A Special Town Meeting is anticipated for June 5th to address any capital improvement projects or purchases that may be recommended.

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: It is moved the Town vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$19.26
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$140.51
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$25.06
Selectboard Chair	\$2,580.44
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,345.92
Board of Assessors Chair	\$3,133.52
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,848.64
Board of Health Chair	\$1,412.76
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,293.76
Town Clerk	\$21,205.60
Tax Collector	\$23,881.58
Additional As Sewer Collector	\$669.08
Treasurer	\$21,534.30
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$59.75
Town Clerk	\$95.70

All amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2017, except for the Town Clerk (increase of \$3,440.84), Tax Collector (increase of \$1,500.00), and Treasurer (increase of \$1,500.00). The most recent non-COLA increases for the Town Clerk and Treasurer were in Fiscal Year 2014, and Fiscal Year 2013 for the Tax Collector. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 1 absent.

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 Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,495.00 (Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five and 00/100 Dollars) to provide a 2.0% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees, excluding elected officials.

The Personnel Committee recommended a 2.5% COLA, and noted this year's 6.6% increase and next year's 9.4% increase to employee health insurance premiums as a factor in their recommendation. During the budget discussions the Selectboard arrived at the 2.0% presented tonight. Social Security, which the Town has followed for the last several years, had a 0.3% increase for 2017. However, more recent cost of living indexes and economic data show increases in the range of 2.0 – 2.5%. The Finance Committee does not recommends this article by a vote of 2 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention, and 1 absent.

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 (the “Omnibus budget”), 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 and appropriate by taxation \$1,484,774.04 (One Million Four Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four and 04/100 Dollars) and transfer \$57,200.00 (Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from Sewer Use Fees and appropriate \$38,865.00 (Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five and 00/100 Dollars) from Fiscal Year 2018 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$1,580,839.04 (One Million Five Hundred Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Nine and 04/100 Dollars) for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town (the “Omnibus budget”), 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 amounts in the motion come from lines 86 – 89 of the handout. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$1,630,737.00 (One Million Six Hundred Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,616,443.00 for its Fiscal Year 2018 operating assessment and \$14,294.00 for its Fiscal Year 2018 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 \$1,630,737.00 (One Million Six Hundred Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven and 00/100 Dollars) to provide \$1,616,443.00 for its Fiscal Year 2018 operating assessment and \$14,294.00 for its Fiscal Year 2018 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

The GMRSD's total Fiscal Year 2018 Operating budget increased by 2.2%, and the “All Funds” budget also increased by 2.2%. The overall operating assessment to both towns increased by 4.65%, with Gill seeing a 2.63% increase and Montague 5.01%. Gill's assessment for the GMRSD's operating budget has increased by \$41,451 and the debt service for the high school/middle school renovation project decreased by \$3,736.

Finances for both of our school districts, GMRSD and Franklin County Tech, continue to be very tight, with minimal increases in State Aid, fluctuating and declining enrollments, budget-busting increases in health insurance, and fewer financial reserves to draw upon. We expect future challenges for the Schools and the Town in providing education budgets that are both adequate and affordable.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 11: 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 the operations, stipend and activities of the Emergency Management Director, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,500.00 (Six Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) for the Fiscal Year 2018 operations, stipend and activities of the Emergency Management Director.

With the December 2014 shutdown of the Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee power plant in Vernon, Gill no longer receives State funding for emergency preparedness. This is the first year that the Emergency

Management budget will be funded by the Town through taxation. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$14,655.00 (Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2017 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to the Energy Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$14,655.00 (Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five and 00/100 Dollars) from the Fiscal Year 2017 Gill-Montague School District Account (number 310) to the Energy Stabilization Fund.

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

\$14,655 is the amount that the School District credited Gill's assessment for Fiscal Year 2017 because of energy savings at Gill Elementary School during Fiscal Year 2016. There is currently \$23,594 in the Energy Stabilization Fund, with \$10,786 to be appropriated in the next article to the Fiscal Year 2018 payments on the bond, interest, and energy audit related to the 2011 project that replaced the boiler and upgraded lighting at the Gill Elementary School. After this transfer, and subtracting the Fiscal Year 2018 allocation, the new total in the fund will be \$27,463.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 13: 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 pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, and to pay for an annual energy performance audit, all relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$10,786.00 (Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Six and 00/100 Dollars) from the Energy Stabilization Fund to pay into the General Obligation Energy Conservation Bond Sinking Fund, and to pay supplemental interest associated with said bond, and to pay for an annual energy performance audit, all relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, and all for Fiscal Year 2018.

A 2/3 majority is required to transfer money out of a stabilization fund.

This article makes the Fiscal Year 2018 payments related to the 2011 energy improvements at the Gill Elementary School. It is the sixth payment out of sixteen total. The money in the Energy Stabilization Fund is available because of savings produced by the energy improvements (see Article 12). The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F ³/₄, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access (Public, Educational, and Governmental access) services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, with the fund to begin operation for Fiscal Year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 14.

On May 3, 2017, well after Articles 14, 15, and 16 were already on the Warrant for the May 1st Town Meeting, the State Department of Revenue (DOR) announced another 1-year extension to its deadline for towns to make changes to accounting and budgeting of PEG access funds. Gill's current practices are working well, and the Selectboard sees no reason to change at this time.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to have the Town Accountant transfer any balances as of July 1, 2017 from the existing PEG Access Fund, Account # 271, and the existing PEG Access Capital Fund, Account # 272, to the new PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 15.

See explanation accompanying Article 14.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for PEG Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 16.

See explanation accompanying Article 14.

Article 17: 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) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a 5-year 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) to add to the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward the cost of a 5-year appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company.

Every five 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 for Fiscal Year 2022. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 18: 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) to add to the Board of Assessors Revaluation Account, or take any 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) to add to the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account.

Fiscal Year 2022 is the next 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 revaluation. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) for the Town Audit Account 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 transfer from the Released Overlay account \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be used toward a portion of the cost to conduct an independent financial audit of the Town.

This Article continues to set aside funds to pay for the next triennial audit of the Town's finances, to be conducted at the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2018. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 20: 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 the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,534.00 (Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Four and 00/100 Dollars) and further transfer from the Released Overlay account \$1,000.00 (One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars), for a total of \$7,534.00 for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

This article continues to set aside money to meet future expenses of the Town's obligation to provide health insurance for future retirees. Although the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability is still a very large number (\$620,000 when last updated in 2016, but down from \$760,000 in 2013), the Selectboard and Finance Committee believe there are many assumptions and unknowns built into what is essentially an actuarial estimate. The current balance in the fund is \$27,889. The

Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 21: 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 from taxation \$14,938.00 (Fourteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Capital Stabilization Fund and further transfer from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand and 00/100 Dollars) to be placed into the Energy Stabilization Fund.

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

There is currently \$48,385 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$139,346 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$23,594 in the Energy Stabilization Fund, and \$263,478 in the General Stabilization Fund. (Totals do not include amounts voted in or out by other articles considered tonight.)

The \$14,938 in this motion represents the first year Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) the Town will receive from Kearsarge Energy for the solar photovoltaic facility installed across Main Road from the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

The \$2,000 in this motion is a portion of the savings created when the Town converted its streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs in 2015.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Article 22: 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 2018, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$54,500.00 (Fifty Four Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2018.

Free Cash is the money that remains unspent in department budgets from the previous year, plus any revenues that exceed what was anticipated when the tax rate was set. The Free Cash from Fiscal Year 2016 was certified by the Department of Revenue to be \$153,764. Of that, \$2,000 is used in Article 21, \$54,500 is used in this article, and \$97,210 is recommended for several of the articles on the accompanying warrant for the Special Town Meeting. The remaining \$54 will be carried forward to next year unless it is otherwise appropriated by voters prior to June 30th.

Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2018 tax rate. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

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 19th day of April in the year Two Thousand Seventeen (4/19/2017).

Selectboard of Gill

John R. Ward, Chair

Randy P. Crochier, Board member

Gregory M. Snedeker, 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 9 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY18			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/5/2017 Annual Town Meeting (continuation)	FY16 Approved	FY17 Approved	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
		with COLA	with COLA				
1	GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
2	Moderator (Stipend & Expenses)	335.61	335.00	335.00	-		
3	Selectboard Stipends	7,273.01	7,272.28	7,272.28	-		
4	Selectboard Expenses	2,801.94	4,520.00	4,507.00	(13.00)	-0.3%	
5	Administrative Assistant (Salary & Exp.)	56,046.95	56,190.00	58,458.00	2,268.00	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	8,830.80	8,830.80	8,830.80	-		
10	Assessors Clerical & Expenses	31,162.08	31,505.60	32,905.20	1,399.60	4.4%	Additional training for 2 new/fairly new Assessors
11	Treasurer Salary	20,034.30	20,034.30	21,534.30	1,500.00	7.5%	First non-COLA increase since FY 2014
12	Treasurer Expenses	7,037.00	8,480.00	8,350.00	(130.00)	-1.5%	
13	Tax Collector Salary	22,381.58	22,381.58	23,881.58	1,500.00	6.7%	First non-COLA increase since FY 2013
14	Tax Collector Expenses	8,754.00	8,518.00	8,685.00	167.00	2.0%	
15	Legal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-		
16	IT Committee	2,550.00	4,250.00	4,220.00	(30.00)	-0.7%	
17	Town Clerk Salary	17,764.76	17,764.76	21,205.60	3,440.84	19.4%	First non-COLA increase since FY 2014
18	Town Clerk Expenses	4,670.00	1,825.00	1,825.00	-		
19	Elections/Registrars	2,265.70	6,990.00	6,545.00	(445.00)	-6.4%	
20	Conservation Commission	829.76	830.00	830.00	-		
21	Agricultural Commission	200.00	200.00	400.00	200.00	100.0%	Working on brochure of Gill farms and barns
22	Planning Board	1,792.51	1,794.00	1,794.00	-		
23	Zoning Board of Appeals	1,597.36	1,598.00	1,598.00	-		
24	Energy Commission	500.00	500.00	500.00	-		
25	Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations	25,537.06	23,756.00	23,756.00	-		
26	Building Repairs & Maintenance	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	-		
27	Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations	19,764.40	19,765.00	19,765.00	-		
28	GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	266,978.82	272,190.32	282,047.76	9,857.44	3.6%	
29							
30	PUBLIC SAFETY						
31	Police Department	189,814.05	191,064.00	191,064.00	-		
32	Fire Department	77,318.04	78,735.00	79,935.00	1,200.00	1.5%	Vehicle maintenance and repair
33	PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	267,132.09	269,799.00	270,999.00	1,200.00	0.4%	
34							

Article 9 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY18			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/5/2017 Annual Town Meeting (continuation)	FY16 Approved	FY17 Approved	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
		with COLA	with COLA				
35	PUBLIC WORKS						
36	Trees and Forestry	6,455.00	7,655.00	8,111.00	456.00	6.0%	Hired tree removal
37	Highway Department	251,670.98	251,381.00	246,231.00	(5,150.00)	-2.0%	Fewer hired services due to backhoe purchase, step raise
38	Highway Dep't. - Snow & Ice Removal	63,970.00	63,970.00	63,970.00	-		
39	Bridges and Street Lights	6,300.00	3,500.00	2,500.00	(1,000.00)	-28.6%	Lower expenses due to switch to LED streetlights
40	Solid Waste & Recycling	70,432.00	69,981.00	70,731.00	750.00	1.1%	Increase covers cost to buy 2-year supply of trash stickers
41	Solid Waste District Assessment	1,065.00	2,232.00	2,320.00	88.00		
42	Sewer	87,865.00	92,585.00	96,065.00	3,480.00	3.8%	Increase in sewage disposal costs charged by Montague
43	Cemetery Commission	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	-		
44	Memorial Committee	790.00	834.00	834.00	-		
45	PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	493,047.98	496,638.00	495,262.00	(1,376.00)	-0.3%	
46							
47	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES						
48	Board of Health Salaries	4,000.28	4,000.28	4,000.28	-		
49	Board of Health Clerical & Expenses	2,732.46	3,733.00	3,733.00	-		
50	Council on Aging	7,606.20	7,904.00	8,040.00	136.00	1.7%	
51	Veterans District Assessment	2,863.00	2,082.00	2,615.00	533.00	25.6%	Start-up grant has ended for new District
52	Veterans Benefits	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,000.00	(500.00)	-9.1%	Reduced to offset District assessmnet. Will not cause
53	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL	22,701.94	23,219.28	23,388.28	169.00	0.7%	a reduction to benefits currently being paid.
54							
55	CULTURE & RECREATION						
56	Library	25,831.70	26,643.58	27,259.00	615.42	2.3%	Circulation materials (books, DVDs, etc.)
57	Recreation Committee		3,600.00	2,700.00	(900.00)	-25.0%	Able to use program fees to help cover expenses
58	Historical Commission	860.00	860.00	860.00	-		
59	CULTURE & RECREATION TOTAL	26,691.70	31,103.58	30,819.00	(284.58)	-0.9%	
60							

Article 9 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY18			
	Omnibus Budget for 6/5/2017 Annual Town Meeting (continuation)	FY16 Approved	FY17 Approved	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
		with COLA	with COLA				
61	FIXED COSTS						
62	Town Insurance	40,860.00	40,860.00	41,668.00	808.00	2.0%	Insured value of buildings is too low
63	Mariamante Loan (debt excl)	14,444.70	14,527.56	14,651.00	123.44	0.8%	
64	Safety Complex Roof Loan (debt excl)		16,636.80	16,328.00	(308.80)	-1.9%	
65	Retirement System	81,943.00	88,093.00	95,447.00	7,354.00	8.3%	Increase due to actuarial adjustments of life expectancies
66	Group Health and Life Insurance	81,707.00	86,500.00	93,750.00	7,250.00	8.4%	9.4% increase to health insurance; 8.3% MEDEX increase
67	Backhoe Loan			7,360.00			Mostly offset by a decrease in Highway Dept. budget
68	Police Cruiser Loan (debt excl)	11,124.53		13,835.00	13,835.00	100.0%	First year of 3-year debt exclusion loan
69	Town Hall Roof Loan (PAID OFF)	16,224.00			-	100.0%	
70	FIXED COSTS TOTAL	246,303.23	246,617.36	283,039.00	36,421.64	14.8%	
71							
72	FRCOG ASSESSMENT						
73	Statutory & Reg'l Services Assessments	9,536.00	9,749.00	9,970.00	221.00	2.3%	
74	Accounting	22,917.00	23,105.00	23,618.00	513.00	2.2%	
75	Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health	10,788.00	11,112.00	11,112.00	-		
76	Regional Emerg. Preparedness	150.00	150.00	150.00	-		
77	Cooperative Inspection Program	6,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	-		
78	FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL	49,891.00	51,616.00	52,350.00	734.00	1.4%	
79							
80	EDUCATION						
81	Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.						To be discussed & voted under Article 10
82	GMRSD Bldg Loan						To be discussed & voted under Article 10
83	Franklin County Technical School	62,411.00	126,096.00	142,934.00	16,838.00	13.4%	Total FCTS enrollment is down, Gill's 10 students are a
84	EDUCATION TOTAL	62,411.00	126,096.00	142,934.00	16,838.00	13.4%	greater percentage of the total budget.
85							
86	OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL	1,435,157.76	1,517,279.54	1,580,839.04	63,559.50	4.2%	
87	Less Transfer of Sewer Use Fees	49,000.00	53,720.00	57,200.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
88	Less Estimated Sewer Receipts	38,865.00	38,865.00	38,865.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
89	TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION	1,347,292.76	1,424,694.54	1,484,774.04	60,079.50	4.2%	

Supplemental Info for Article 9 - Omnibus Budget		Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2018				
	A	B	C	D	E	F
		Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2017	Selectboard & Fin. Comm. Fiscal Year 2018	Dollar Change	Percent Change
1	Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)	1,435,157.76	1,517,279.54	1,580,839.04	63,559.50	4.2%
2	Warrant Articles	224,880.00	26,752.00	208,963.00	182,211.00	681.1%
3	Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)	76,321.75	83,542.00	69,330.00	(14,212.00)	-17.0%
4	Total Town Budget	1,736,359.51	1,627,573.54	1,859,132.04	231,558.50	14.2%
5	GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)	1,584,937.00	1,593,022.00	1,630,737.00	37,715.00	2.4%
6	Total Gross Budget	3,321,296.51	3,220,595.54	3,489,869.04	269,273.50	8.4%
7	State Receipts	275,406.00	282,110.00	289,152.00	7,042.00	2.5%
8	Local Receipts	223,400.00	223,400.00	223,400.00	-	0.0%
9	Available Funds	257,135.00	110,803.00	267,061.00	156,258.00	141.0%
10	Free Cash to Reduce the Tax Rate	68,000.00	68,000.00	54,500.00	(13,500.00)	-19.9%
11	Total Receipts	823,941.00	684,313.00	834,113.00	149,800.00	21.9%
12	Total Gross Budget	3,321,296.51	3,220,595.54	3,489,869.04	269,273.50	8.4%
13	Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)	823,941.00	684,313.00	834,113.00	149,800.00	21.9%
14	Property Tax Assessment	2,497,355.51	2,536,282.54	2,655,756.04	119,473.50	4.7%
15	Town-wide Property Valuation (FY18 is in process)	147,336,608	152,972,409	154,400,000	(estimated)	
16	Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation)	16.95	16.58	17.20	0.62	3.7%
17	Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence	194,461	199,246	199,246	-	0.0%
18	Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence	3,296	3,303	3,427	124	3.7%

2017 Report of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee

Created by the June 2010 Annual Town Meeting, the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC) members were appointed by the Selectboard. By definition, the Committee is charged with studying proposed projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which 1) are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than five years; 2) have a useful life of at least five years; and 3) cost over \$10,000.

Appointed by the Selectboard were: at-large members: Fred Chase, Tom Hodak, and Nancy Griswold; School Committee representative Sandy Brown, Selectboard representative Greg Snedeker, and Finance Committee representative Veronica "Ronnie" LaChance. Nancy Griswold resigned and has been replaced by Dan Trenholm. Sandy Brown will be replaced by another School Committee representative for 2018.

The Committee requested all Town Departments to submit capital requests. Based on those returned, the Committee recommends for FY17 the following:

- Continued from 2016, the purchase of two pumper tankers and one emergency vehicle for the Fire department (not to be purchased all at once but over a period of ten years)
- Update the electrical panels in the Gill Elementary School.
- Resurface the kitchen floor in the Gill Elementary School.
- Gill Elementary School water treatment system
- Replace the wheelchair ramp at the Riverside Municipal Building

It is expected that the following items will need to be addressed in the next five years:

Town Hall

- Correct wetness in basement (**in progress, expected 2017**)
- Preserve/protect Town documents (**funding requested**, but less than a "Capital" item)
- Replace boiler (Green Community grant being explored)

Public Safety Complex

- Re-pave driveway and rear of building

Gill Elementary School

- Upgrade water and well components (**in progress, expected 2017**)
- Upgrade electrical panels (**recommended for 2017**)
- Resurface (epoxy coat) kitchen floor (**recommended for 2017**)
- Replace roof (**State aid was not approved, will reapply in 2018**)
- Replace floor tiles (**recommended continued**)
- Update lightning protection system
- There are other needs that fall below the \$10,000 threshold

Riverside Municipal Building

- Replace wheelchair ramp (**recommended for 2017**)
- Replace roof
- Repair/replace concrete steps and wooden columns

Slate Memorial Library

- Replace furnace (Green Community grant being explored)
- Insulate walls and roof/ceiling (Green Community grant being explored)

Cemeteries

Fire Department

- Replace air packs and bottles (**in progress/waiting on FEMA grant**)
- Replace 1979 Ford Louisville tanker truck (**recommendation continued**)
- Replace the 1985 emergency van
- Replace brush truck
- Replace 1987 pumper truck

Highway Department

- Replace 1985 Chipper

Police Department

- Replace 2008 police cruiser

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of
the Capital Improvements Planning Committee

Greg Snedeker, Chair