

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: MAY 23, 2022

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, 325 Main Road in said Town on Monday, the Twenty Third day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Two (05/23/2022) at 6:30 PM then and there to act on the following articles.

Article 1: To elect the following officers: Two or more Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year; AND

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 or other purposes for the Fiscal Year 2023 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation; AND

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 2023, 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 to elect Edward J. Golembeski and Clifford C. Hatch as Field Drivers and the Regional Animal Control Officer as Assistant Field Driver and elect the Selectboard as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year; AND

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 or other purposes for the Fiscal Year 2023 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department; AND

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 2023, and authorize the Selectboard to expend such funds in support of the Gill Elementary School.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The names and positions (Field Drivers, Fence Viewers, and etc.) are the same as last year.

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 (now called “chip sealing”), and drainage and guardrail projects. The Town will receive \$146,309 for Fiscal Year 2023.

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 \$2,487 from the Trust during Fiscal Year 2022, and there is a balance of \$12,338 in the Town’s Quintus Allen account.

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

2022	Portable Netting behind Basketball Hoops (\$2,268.00)
2018-19	Outdoor Learning Center (\$4,537.96)
2017	Chromebook Computers (24) & Storage Cart (\$6,050.00)
2016	Climbing Wall & Gear (\$1,329.21)
2015	Nature Program Coordinator & Equipment (\$2,915.60)

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to make the following changes related to the provision of property tax exemptions to senior citizens of Gill, or take any action relative thereto:

- A. Change the income eligibility to receive a \$500 Senior Exemption under Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C from \$15,000 single/\$20,000 married to \$20,000 single/\$30,000 married; AND
- B. Change the asset limit eligibility to receive a \$500 Senior Exemption under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C from \$28,000 single/\$30,000 married to \$40,000 single/\$55,000 married; AND
- C. Change the age eligibility to receive a \$500 Senior Exemption under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C from age 70 to age 65; AND
- D. Change the amount of a Senior Exemption under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C from \$500 to \$1,000; AND
- E. Accept MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D to provide an annual increase in the income and asset limits used to determine the eligibility for the exemption provided to senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5 Clause 41C, with the annual increase based upon the percentage increase in the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year as determined by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue, and to be effective on July 1, 2022; AND
- F. Accept MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E to provide an annual increase in the asset limit used to determine the eligibility for the \$175 exemption provided to senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D, with the annual increase based upon the percentage increase in the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year as determined by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue, and to be effective on July 1, 2022.

Motion: It is moved Town vote to make the changes related to the provision of property tax exemptions to senior citizens of Gill as printed on the warrant as items A through F of Article 2.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Board of Assessors recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed.

This article was requested by the Board of Assessors, and is intended to expand the eligibility for senior property tax exemptions to the maximum allowed by law by increasing the income limits (A), increasing the asset limits (B), and reducing the eligible age (C). In addition, the proposed changes will increase the amount of the exemption to the maximum allowed by law (D), and provide an automatic annual increase to the eligibility criteria based upon the Consumer Price Index (E and F).

These senior exemptions are commonly known as “41C” and “17D” after the section of Massachusetts law that established them. The 41C exemption currently provides a \$500 discount off the property tax bill of an eligible senior. The 17D exemption is less generous, providing a \$175 discount, but only assets, and not income, are used to determine a senior’s eligibility. The Town of Gill first adopted the senior exemptions in 1986, and except for increasing the 41C income limits in 2014, the exemption amount and eligibility criteria have not changed in 35 years.

In 1988 (earliest year this data is readily available) a \$500 discount on property taxes was a significant amount. Back then, the average assessed value of a single-family home was \$53,433, and the average tax bill was \$598. Today, the average single-family home is assessed at \$240,420 and has a tax bill of \$4,005. The relative amount of financial relief provided by a \$500 exemption today is not what it was 35 years ago. Adopting these recommended changes will support Gill’s senior citizens by offering the maximum relief allowed by law.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to take a position on the following resolution in support of the Fair Share Amendment that will appear on the November 2022 statewide ballot, or take any action relative thereto.

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery; and

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike around town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gill has three structurally deficient bridges and major culverts and miles of overdue road repairs and replacements; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, causing many students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable again, and expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling; and

WHEREAS, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved the Town of Gill supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

Motion: It is moved Town vote to support the proposed Fair Share Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way Cove View Lane as currently laid out from its intersection with French King Highway (Route 2) and running more or less easterly a length of 425 feet to its termination, and to authorize the Selectboard to acquire on behalf of the Town by purchase, gift, or taking by eminent domain an easement for public street purposes in said way and to acquire any other necessary easements, including drainage easements as shown on the plan, sufficient to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Gill, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved Town vote to accept as a public way Cove View Lane as currently laid out from its intersection with French King Highway (Route 2) and running more or less easterly a length of 425 feet to its termination, and to authorize the Selectboard to acquire on behalf of the Town by purchase, gift, or taking by eminent domain an easement for public street purposes in said way and to acquire any other necessary easements, including drainage easements, sufficient to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Gill, all contingent upon a determination by the Selectboard the layout of Cove View Lane is in the best interest of the Town.

The Finance Committee took no action on this article.

Cove View Lane is a dead-end paved road located just east of and on the opposite side of Route 2 from the State Boat Ramp, and provides access to a single-family home and a 4-unit multi-family home. As far back as anyone can remember, it has always been maintained by the Town, including plowing and sanding in the winter and periodic re-surfacing with a fresh coat of "oil and stone." It is suspected the layout of Cove View Lane dates back to some of the earliest roads leading east from Factory Hollow and Riverside to the Connecticut River ferry crossing at the end of River Road and

Pisgah Mountain Road, and that Cove View Lane became a dead-end spur around 1932 when the French King Bridge was completed and Route 2 came through Gill.

This spring the Highway Department submitted an application to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to use \$4,957 of Gill's Chapter 90 funds to re-surface Cove View Lane. However, MassDOT rejected the application because it has no record of Cove View Lane as an officially accepted town road. Passing this article will accept Cove View Lane as a public way and formally add it to the official list of town roads.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to delete in its entirety the Dog Control section of the Bylaws of the Town of Gill and further vote to accept the following Animal Control Bylaws as Bylaws of the Town of Gill, or take any action relative thereto.

Administration

1. Severability: If any provision of this bylaw should be found invalid, the remainder of this bylaw shall remain in force.
2. Definitions for this bylaw shall be adopted and defined by Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 140, Section 136A.

Dog Licensing

1. In accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 137, the owner or keeper of a dog over the age of (6) six months shall annually obtain a license for the dog from the licensing authority, who shall issue dog licenses and tags.
2. Annual dog licenses must be obtained by March 31st for a licensing period of April 1st through March 31st of the following calendar year. The open licensing period shall be from February 1st through March 31st of each year.
3. In accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 138, any person who during any licensing period becomes the owner or keeper of a dog which is duly licensed in the town or city where it is to be kept shall forthwith give notice, in writing, to the Town Clerk that they have become such owner or keeper. The Town Clerk shall change the record of such license to show the name and address of the new owner or keeper.
4. In accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 138, any person bringing or causing to be brought from another state or country any dog licensed under the laws thereof which is (6) six months old or over or will be (6) six months old before the expiration of (30) thirty days shall, on or before the expiration of (30) thirty days following the arrival of such dog within the Commonwealth license the dog with the Town Clerk.
5. The fee for licensure shall be set by the Selectboard and may be adjusted at their discretion during an open meeting. Any adjustments shall not become effective until the start of the next licensing period.
6. No license fee shall be charged for a license issued under MGL Chapter 140, Section 139 for a service dog as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and MGL Chapter 272, Section 98A.
 - a. Application shall be made for a dog license as provided in this bylaw, and license tags issued must be worn by any such service dog.
7. No license fee or portion thereof shall be refunded because of subsequent death, loss, spaying, neutering, removal from town or other disposal of the dog for which the license has been issued, nor shall any fee for a license issued to a new resident be prorated.
8. Any person (70) seventy years of age or older, upon proof of age, shall be exempt from the annual license fee for one dog, per household, per licensing year.
 - a. The owner of a kennel license, (70) seventy years of age or older, shall be excluded from this exemption.
9. All license fees collected shall deposited as defined in MGL Chapter 140, Section 147.

Kennel Licensing

1. Annual kennel licenses must be obtained by March 31st for a licensing period of April 1st through March 31st of the following calendar year. The open licensing period shall be from February 1st through March 31st of each year.
2. A kennel license shall be in lieu of individually licensing the dogs kept on the subject premises.
3. The fee for kennel licensure shall be set by the Selectboard and may be adjusted at their discretion during an open meeting. Any adjustments shall not become effective until the start of the next licensing period.

4. Kennels may be established where allowed and permitted by the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws.
5. Issuance: Upon receipt of the completed application packet and appropriate fee, the Town Clerk shall issue the kennel license valid through March 31st of the following calendar year.
6. Renewals: A kennel license shall be renewed by March 31st annually upon completion of an annual inspection and payment of the appropriate fee, provided that the renewal and licensure is not in contradiction any bylaw or Massachusetts General Laws that would prohibit the renewal or issuance of the license.
7. Inspection or complaints of kennels or revocation, suspension and reinstatement of kennel licenses shall be handled in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 137C.
8. In accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 137A, an owner or keeper of less than 4 (four) dogs, 3 (three) months old or older, who does not maintain a kennel may elect to secure a kennel license in lieu of licensing the dogs under Section 137 and shall be subject to this Section, Sections 137B and 137C and so much of Section 141 as it relates to violations of this Section to the same extent as though the owner or keeper were maintaining a kennel.
9. All license fees collected shall deposited as defined in MGL Chapter 140, Section 147.

Dogs Running-At-Large; Unrestrained

1. No owner or keeper of any dog within the town limits shall allow any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to wander on private property without permission of the owner thereof, or on any public property within the town, including but not limited to public ways, school grounds, recreation areas and cemeteries, unless the dog is properly restrained with a chain or leash.
 - a. Exception: This section shall in no way preclude the use of certain specially trained dogs as set forth in MGL Chapter 140, Section 139.
2. The owner or keeper of any dog which is not on the premises of the owner or keeper or upon the premises of another with the permission of said person shall restrain said dog with a chain or leash of sufficient material and strength as necessary to restrain the dog and shall be held by a person capable of controlling the movements of the dog. The chain or leash shall be a length which prohibits the dog from being a nuisance to persons nearby or causing damage to public or personal property.
3. Any dog being used for lawful hunting, training, sporting, working purposes, or accompanied by its master, who must accept full responsibility for the dog's behavior, shall not be considered running unrestrained.
4. Any dog found to be in violation of this bylaw, and not under the immediate control of the owner or keeper, may be picked up by any law enforcement officer and either returned to the owner or keeper or deposited in a dog pound or similar facility. The owner or keeper shall be responsible for paying all costs of maintaining and keeping the animal at the dog pound or similar facility. Except as otherwise permitted by this bylaw, unrestrained or unlicensed dogs may be sought out, caught and confined by the Animal Control Officer or any police officer of the Town and impounded pursuant to MGL Chapter 140, Sections 151A and 167.
5. This bylaw shall remain in force year-round.
6. Violations of this section are subject to the fine schedule as set forth in MGL Chapter 140, Section 173A.

Removal of Waste

1. No person owning or keeping a dog shall suffer, permit, or allow such a dog to leave feces in any public or private property of someone other than that of the dog's owner or keeper within the Town of Gill, without the approval of said property owner. Any person having custody and control of a dog in any such area shall carry proper equipment for the removal of feces. For purposes of this section, the means of removal shall be any tool, implement, or other device carried for the purpose of picking up and containing such feces. No person shall leave or dispose of said feces in any catch basin, drainage structure, waterway, or on any public property or street except in an approved trash receptacle.
 - a. This section shall not apply to a dog licensed under MGL Chapter 140, Section 139 and/or accompanying a person whom is handicapped as defined in MGL Chapter 272, Section 98A if by reason of their handicap they are physically unable to comply with the requirements of this section.

Complaint of Nuisance and Dangerous Dogs

1. Any person may make a written complaint to the Animal Control Officer that any dog owned or kept within the Town is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog, as those terms are defined in MGL Chapter 140, Section 136A.

2. The provisions of MGL Chapter 140, Sections 161 and 161A shall apply to whoever suffers the loss of livestock or fowl in a manner described in said Section 161.
3. The Animal Control Officer shall investigate or cause to be investigated such complaint, which may include an examination under oath of the complainant at a public hearing in Town to determine whether the dog is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog, and shall submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the Selectboard concerning the restraint or disposal of such dog as provided in MGL Chapter 140, Section 157.
4. The Animal Control Officer, after investigation, may issue an interim order that such dog be restrained or muzzled for a period not to exceed 14 (fourteen) days to enable the Selectboard to issue their order following receipt of the report of the Animal Control Officer. If the Selectboard fails to act during the period of the interim order, upon expiration of the interim period, the order shall automatically be vacated.
5. The Selectboard, after credible evidence and testimony is presented at the public hearing, shall (A) dismiss the complaint; (B) deem the dog a nuisance dog and order that the owner or keeper of the dog take remedial action to ameliorate the cause of the nuisance behavior; or (C) deem the dog a dangerous dog and make such order concerning the restraint, muzzling, or euthanization of such dog, or such other action as may be deemed necessary; provided, however, that the Selectboard shall not order the banishment and/or tethering of the dog.
6. Violations of such orders shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of MGL Chapter 140, Sections 157 and 157A.

Impoundment and Kenneling

1. Impoundment:
 - a. The Animal Control Officer or police officer shall immediately notify the owner or keeper of any animal impounded by the officer under the provisions of this bylaw, if such owner is known by the officer.
 - b. If the animal is not licensed or the owner or keeper is not known by the Animal Control Officer or Police Officer, no notice shall be necessary.
 - c. The animal shall be secured in the town kennel or other such approved holding facility.
2. Kenneling:
 - a. The kenneling period shall start at the time of impoundment and shall accrue until the owner presents the required documentation, signs a release form and removes the animal from the facility.
 - i. Required Documentation shall be considered to be proof of ownership, a valid rabies certificate, and a valid town license.
 - b. The Town may contract with the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter or any other licensed suitable public or privately owned facility approved by the Animal Control Officer and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture to provide care and kenneling services to dogs impounded by the Animal Control Officer or police officer, or turned in by a citizen.
 - i. All associated fees and costs related to the kenneling of a dog shall be set and collected by the owner or operator of the kennel.
 - c. In the event that the kennel facility is not adequate for the animals, is overpopulated, or is not adequate for the conditions, animals may be boarded at a boarding facility approved by the Animal Control Officer.
 - i. If an animal is required to be boarded at another facility, payment to the facility shall be made by the Town upon receipt of bill or invoice. The Town may then seek restitution for the costs from the owner of the animal.
3. Disposition of Animals:
 - a. Animal Surrenders shall be done at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer.
 - b. Unclaimed Animals: In accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 151A, any dog unclaimed after (7) seven days from pickup/confinement shall be come property of the Town and shall be handled at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer.
 - i. This bylaw shall be extended to cover all animals taken into custody by the Animal Control Officer, with the exception of livestock which shall be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Humane Treatment

1. Any person owning, possessing or controlling a domesticated animal shall provide the animal with sufficient potable water and wholesome food, proper shelter and protection from the weather, including extremes of heat and cold, veterinary care sufficient to prevent suffering and the spread of disease and shall provide humane care and treatment for the animal.
2. Any person owning, possessing or controlling a dog in the town shall not allow or permit said dog to be harbored, confined, chained or tethered in violation of MGL Chapter 140, Section 174E.
 - a. Violations of this section are subject to the fine schedule as set forth in MGL Chapter 140, Section 174E.
 - b. Clarification Note: MGL Chapter 140, Section 174E defines rules and requirements related to dogs. This includes but is not limited to shelters, cable runs, tethering, kenneling, and dogs being outside during weather advisories, warnings, and watches.
3. In accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 174F it shall be a violation of this bylaw to confine an animal in a motor vehicle in a manner that could reasonably be expected to threaten the health of the animal due to exposure to extreme heat or cold.
 - a. Violations of this section are subject to the fine schedule as set forth in MGL Chapter 140, Section 174F.

Rabies Control

1. All dogs, cats and ferrets owned by a resident of the town shall be properly vaccinated against rabies in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 145B.
2. The Town shall annually nominate a minimum of (1) one Animal Inspector as defined in MGL Chapter 129, Section 15.
3. All bites by dogs, cats or other domestic animals or wild or exotic animals shall be reported to the Animal Inspector and the Animal Control Officer as soon as possible by the person bitten or by the owner or keeper of the animal, or both.

Cats

1. Stray Cats: Any rescue group, humane society or other person or organization picking up stray cats shall notify the Animal Control Officer with all relevant information of each cat and the location found.
2. Feral Cats: Any person or organization that traps and releases feral cats shall report such activity to the Animal Control Officer including information of description and numbers of cats trapped and the name and contact information of the caretaker. The caretaker is expected to take responsibility for the duration of the cat's life. All feral cats shall be spayed or neutered and ideally be ear tipped to signify their alterations at the expense of the organization trapping the cats.

Fees: Enforcement, Violations and Penalties

1. In addition to police officers, who shall in all cases be considered enforcement personnel for the purposes of non-criminal enforcement, a duly appointed Animal Control Officer shall be the enforcement officer with respect to the provision set forth in this bylaw.
2. A violation of any provision of this article may be dealt with as a non-criminal offense in accordance with the provision of MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D, and shall be subject to the specific fine or penalty listed in each provision.
3. Violation of dog control laws shall utilize the following schedule of fines as defined in MGL Chapter 140, Section 173A.
 - a. First Offense: \$50 (fifty dollars)
 - b. Second Offense: \$100 (one hundred dollars)
 - c. Third Offense: \$300 (three hundred dollars)
 - d. Fourth/Subsequent Offense: \$500 (five hundred dollars)
 - e. The town may require a dog to be spayed/neutered if applicable.
4. Other violations: If no specific fine is listed for a specific provision, the following fine schedule shall apply.
 - a. First Offense: Verbal Warning
 - b. Second Offense: \$25 (twenty-five dollars)
 - c. Third Offense: \$50 (fifty dollars)
 - d. Fourth Offense/Subsequent: \$100 (one hundred dollars)

5. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated may constitute a separate offense.
6. Unless specified within a specific provision, a separate offense is not limited to an offense within a calendar year from the first offense.
7. Except where otherwise required by law, all fines collected pursuant to the enforcement of this bylaw shall be deposited into the Animal Control/Dog Fund revolving account.

Motion: It is moved Town vote to delete in its entirety the Dog Control section of the Bylaws of the Town of Gill and further vote to accept as Bylaws of the Town the Animal Control Bylaws as printed on the warrant as Article 5.

The Finance Committee took no action on this article.

The last major update to Gill's Dog Control bylaws happened in 2006, with a minor clarification adopted in 2011. In 2012 "An Act Further Regulating Animal Control" was signed into law and made substantial changes to most of the state laws governing dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals. Most of Gill's Dog Control bylaws are outdated and incongruent with current statutes, and need to be updated. The current Dog Control bylaws are printed on the yellow paper included in this handout.

The proposed new Animal Control bylaws were prepared by Kyle Dragon, Regional Animal Control Officer for Gill and six other Franklin County towns (with several more towns expected to join this year). These bylaws are in accordance with current state statutes and regulations governing animal control, and are standardized across all the member towns of the Regional Animal Control Officer program, which provides a common framework for enforcement. Gill's proposed bylaws do not contain a section on Livestock Animals, as the Agricultural Commission voiced concerns and the Selectboard took heed of those concerns.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to amend the May 7, 1977 Town Meeting vote by changing the number of members and membership of the Recreation Committee from the current 5 (five) members, all of whom must be Gill residents, to a range of 3 (three) to 7 (seven) members, with non-residents allowed as members so long as residents comprise the majority of the Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved Town vote to amend the May 7, 1977 Town Meeting vote by changing the number of members and membership of the Recreation Committee from the current 5 (five) members, all of whom must be Gill residents, to a range of 3 (three) to 7 (seven) members, with non-residents allowed as members so long as residents comprise the majority of the Committee.

The Finance Committee took no action on this article.

This article provides the same type of range in the number of members as was adopted for the Agricultural Commission and the Finance Committee in 2018. By allowing the membership to be a range, it makes it easier for the committee to achieve a quorum and continue to function even when there are vacancies on the committee.

According to the Open Meeting Law, a quorum is a majority of the membership, so in the case of the Recreation Committee, a quorum is three of the five possible members. However, currently only three people have been appointed to the Rec Committee, which means all three must be present in order for the committee to legally meet and conduct business. With a membership range, the quorum becomes a majority of the currently appointed members. So, if, for example, there are seven appointed members, the quorum is four. If there are only three members, the quorum is two.

This article will also allow people who are not residents of Gill to be appointed as members of the Recreation Committee. School Choice allows students from other towns to attend Gill Elementary School, and this amendment would let parents or other family members of out-of-town students serve on the Recreation Committee and help plan and provide programs where their children can play on the same teams as their classmates.

Article 7: 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 unspent 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, Selectboard		Dog Fees & Fines	Licenses, Regional Animal Control Services, Dog Care & Control, & Etc.	8,000.00
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	3,000.00
Board of Health, Town Administrator		Recycling Program Revenue	Solid waste & recycling programs, Solid Waste District membership, recycled-content office products	5,000.00
Selectboard		User Fees from Electric Vehicle Charger	Operating & maintenance costs for Electric Vehicle Charger	4,000.00

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, 2022 will be limited to the amounts listed, with all unspent money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

A revolving fund allows program fees to be used within the fiscal year for the purposes listed by the "department" that collects the fees. This is the same list of revolving funds, purposes, and amounts that was approved last year, with the exception that the allowed expenditures for the Zoning Board of Appeals revolving fund is increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 due to an increased number of Special Permit hearings during the past 18 months.

Article 8: 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	\$22.00
*Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$152.00
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$28.00
*Selectboard Chair	\$2,778.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,525.00
*Board of Assessors Chair	\$3,374.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$3,067.00
*Board of Health Chair	\$1,522.00
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,393.00
Town Clerk	\$22,820.00
Tax Collector	\$25,699.00
Additional As Sewer Fee Collector	\$724.00
Treasurer	\$23,173.00
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$65.00
Town Clerk, as Chair	\$105.00

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Except for rounding, all amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2022. A COLA, if approved in Article 9, would be in addition to the amounts listed above. The elected positions that are preceded by

an asterisk () are not included in the COLA proposed in Article 9 on the basis the provided stipends are more akin to honorariums, and are not intended to be working wages compensation for the time spent on the duties of the positions.*

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Town employees and certain elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$33,500.00 (THIRTY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide a 6% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all appointed Town employees and the elected Tax Collector, Town Clerk, and Treasurer.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The Personnel Committee unanimously recommended this year's COLA based on the 5.9% Social Security increase that went into effect in January 2022 and the 6.4% increase indicated by the Consumer Price Index published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Personnel Committee made its initial recommendation in December 2021. They revisited it in early May and stuck with the 6% based on continued evidence of high levels of inflation, a rising cost of living, and a desire to continue to provide competitive compensation to the Town's employees.

Certain elected positions (Constables, Moderator, Selectboard members, Assessors, and Board of Health members) are excluded from this COLA on the basis the provided stipends are more akin to honorariums, and are not intended to be working wages compensation for the time spent on the duties of the positions.

Article 10: 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 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 \$1,896,295.00 (ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) and transfer \$115,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from Sewer Use Fees and appropriate \$70,000.00 (SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from Fiscal Year 2023 Estimated Sewer Receipts for a total appropriation of \$2,081,295.00 for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town (the "Omnibus budget") for Fiscal Year 2023, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Please see the separate handout (legal-sized paper) for the Omnibus amounts and accompanying notes. The amounts in the motion come from page 4, Column D, lines 86 – 89 of the handout.

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 its Fiscal Year 2023 operating assessment and its Fiscal Year 2023 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 \$1,751,288.00 (ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to provide \$1,741,616.00 for its Fiscal Year 2023 operating assessment and \$9,672.00 for its Fiscal Year 2023 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD).

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The GMRSD's total Fiscal Year 2023 "All Funds" budget increased by 9.6% over Fiscal Year 2022, with most of the increase due to the one-time use of ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds that are available to the District through September 2024. The overall operating assessment to both towns increased by 3.9%, with Gill seeing a 1.8% increase and Montague a 4.2% increase. Gill's assessment for the GMRSD's operating budget increased by \$30,240 and the debt service for the high school/middle school renovation project decreased by \$3,587.

Gill's enrollment in the District decreased from 99 to 86 students at the same time Montague's enrollment decreased from 684 to 632.

A handout from the GMRSD is attached (blue paper in Town Meeting handout).

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to purchase and install a replacement to the building management system at the Gill Elementary School, including a computer, software, and ancillary expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to purchase and install a replacement to the building management system at the Gill Elementary School, including a computer, software, and ancillary expenses.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends this project by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

The computer that runs the heating system at the Gill Elementary School is having frequent failures and shutdowns and needs to be replaced with a system with the capability to send notifications of important system events and provide authentication of computer system users. Notification would have alerted District officials to the boiler failures that occurred over the winter and user authentication can restrict who has access to certain parts of the heating system controls. The original system was purchased in 2012 as part of the Siemens project.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Released Overlay \$8,000.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be used to purchase and install an upgrade to the property valuation software used by the Board of Assessors and for related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$8,000.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account to be used to purchase and install an upgrade to the property valuation software used by the Board of Assessors and for related expenses.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Except for occasional minor upgrades, the AssessPro software used in the Assessors' Office is the same program that was purchased and installed in 2006. The version we are using operates on a database structure that Windows is no longer supporting, and lacks modern user security features. The upgraded software will address these shortcomings and includes many new features to improve ease of use and efficiency.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Released Overlay \$27,500.00 (TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the account to be used toward the costs associated with an appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Power and an appraisal of the personal property in the Town of Gill owned by National Grid, New England Power Company, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy; AND

Transfer from Released Overlay \$2,000.00 (TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the Board of Assessors Revaluation Account; AND

Transfer from Released Overlay \$7,500 (SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the legal litigation account for legal and other expenses related to the defense, appeal, or settlement of cases at the Appellate Tax Board and other courts, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$27,500.00 (TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account to add to the account to be used toward the costs associated with an appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Power and an appraisal of the personal property in the Town of Gill owned by National Grid, New England Power Company, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy; AND

It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$2,000.00 (TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account to add to the Board of Assessors' Revaluation Account; AND

It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$7,500.00 (SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the Released Overlay account to add to the legal litigation account for legal and other expenses related to the defense, appeal, or settlement of cases at the Appellate Tax Board and other courts.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

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. Appraisals are also needed to substantiate the valuation of the several electricity distribution companies with property in Gill. The first clause of this article adds to the existing account and saves toward the appraisals being done for Fiscal Year 2027 as well as for interim year appraisals and updates.

Fiscal Year 2027 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. The second clause of this article continues saving toward the revaluation.

The last clause of this Article adds an additional \$7,500 to the Town's account for legal litigation at the Appellate Tax Board and other courts. Of the original \$35,000 set aside for this purpose in 2020 and 2021, there is a remaining balance of \$21,712. The Appellate Tax Board is still acting on two years of appeals by Kearsarge Gill LLC (the owner of the solar electric installation located on the Northfield Mount Hermon School campus) and a Fiscal Year 2021 appeal filed by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource. In addition, the Assessors have two pending abatement applications that could develop into appeals to the Appellate Tax Board. Given the complexity of the active and potential cases, and the fact the general Legal budget for Fiscal Year 2023 is only \$5,000, it is important to provide additional funds to see these cases to completion.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the purchase of a new electronic vote tabulator to be used by the Town Clerk in the conduct of certain elections of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$2,200.00 (TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be added to the account established for the purchase of a new electronic vote tabulator to be used by the Town Clerk in the conduct of certain elections of the Town.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The Town's current electronic vote tabulator was purchased used for \$2,000 in 2006. The manufacturer stopped production on our model in 2007, and certain repairs are beginning to use parts cannibalized from out-of-service machines. The current cost of a new tabulator is approximately \$5,200. This Article adds funds to the \$2,200 already set aside at last year's Town Meeting. The Town Clerk hopes to be able to purchase a new tabulator in time to use it for the next presidential primary election in 2024.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$7,000.00 (SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to add to the account (001-159-5846) previously established to provide for Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$7,000.00 (SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (account 256) to add to the account (001-159-5846) previously established to provide for PEG Access operations and other municipal cable-related expenses.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The Town annually receives in excess of \$15,000 in PEG (Public, Educational, and Governmental) Access funds from Comcast as part of its cable license. There is currently a balance of \$121,828 in the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund. The money can only be used for public access broadcasting, educational media and broadcasting, government access television, and/or the capital costs of PEG facilities, and must be appropriated by Town Meeting before it can be spent.

The PEG Access operating account started Fiscal Year 2022 with a balance of \$12,014 and is projected to spend approximately \$5,000 this year on equipment upgrades, improvements to the Town Hall sound system, technical support, and stipends for those who video record Selectboard meetings, Town Meetings, and other public events. This \$7,000 appropriation will “refill” the balance to the \$12,000 recommended by the Cable Committee.

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 purchase a Pierce “Responder” 4-wheel drive fire vehicle and related accessories for the Fire 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 Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 appropriate \$241,407.00 (TWO HUNDRED FORTY ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS), with

\$25,000.00 (TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund, and \$75,000.00 (SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be transferred from the General Stabilization Fund, and

up to \$141,407.00 (ONE HUNDRED FORTY ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be borrowed by the Town Treasurer

to purchase a Pierce “Responder” 4-wheel drive fire vehicle and related accessories for the Fire Department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase, and

authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose as authorized by General Laws Chapter 44 § 7 or any other general or special law, contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion referendum.

A 2/3 majority is required to authorize borrowing AND to use Stabilization Funds.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends the purchase of the Responder by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The “Responder” has been proposed by the Fire Department as the replacement for the 1987 Engine 1. Unlike our current two fire engines and tanker, the Responder has 4-wheel drive and a significantly higher ground clearance, which will allow it to get to many more of Gill’s hard-to-reach side roads, gravel roads, and steep driveways in all weather conditions. It will seat four firefighters, has a 1,000-gallon water tank and 1,250 gallons-per-minute pump, and carries a full complement of fire hose and ladders. Photographs of a Responder and Engine 1, as well as photographs of the current Brush Truck and a future replacement are included on both sides of the next-to-last page of this handout.

Engine 1 is 35-years-old, needs frequent and often expensive repairs, and has an unsafe “open cab” design that, while code-compliant when it was built, no longer meets today’s NFPA safety standards for fire vehicles. In addition, Engine 1 only has lap belts for seat belts (not lap/shoulder belts), and it lacks many other modern safety features. In each of the last five years the Fire Department has been unsuccessful in its attempts to replace Engine 1 with an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and it is felt the replacement of Engine 1 can no longer wait for the “maybe next year” hopes of the very competitive AFG grant process. It is worth noting that with the timely use of grants and donated funds, Gill’s taxpayers have not had to borrow and pay off loans for the purchase of a fire department vehicle since 1995. (And even then, taxpayers only paid for half of the roughly \$500,000 cost of Engine 2.)

The Selectboard has already submitted a purchase order for the Responder, however, the purchase order may be cancelled without cost or penalty if the necessary funding is not approved by Town voters. By placing the purchase order on April 29th, the Town avoided a 10% price increase scheduled for April 30th, and in effect saved over \$40,000. In addition, the Selectboard has voted to use \$168,593 of the Town’s ARPA funds to defray the Town’s cost of this new piece of fire apparatus.

As was noted in the handout for last year's Town Meeting, the "Selectboard and Finance Committee recognize there are several significant vehicle replacement and building maintenance projects on the visible horizon, and the reserves in the General Stabilization Fund could be used to reduce the amount of borrowing for those projects." The motion for this article makes the responsible use of \$25,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund (current balance of \$53,075) and \$75,000 from the General Stabilization Fund (current balance of \$373,822). The total amount to be borrowed is \$141,407 – 34% of the total cost of the vehicle - and is contingent upon the passage of a debt exclusion ballot vote scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase an International Model CV515 dump truck with a plow, wing plow, stainless steel all-season body 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 Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 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 appropriate \$81,593.00 (EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS), with

\$31,593.00 (THIRTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be transferred from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), and

\$30,000.00 (THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be transferred from the account established to make repairs to the Highway Department's 2009 Sterling dump truck, and

\$20,000.00 (TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) to be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund

to purchase an International Model CV515 dump truck with a plow, wing plow, stainless steel all-season body and related accessories for the Highway Department.

A 2/3 majority is required to use Stabilization Funds.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends the purchase of this vehicle by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The "CV515" has been proposed by the Highway Department as the replacement for the 2005 Ford F550 one-ton truck. The 2005 is the Department's most used and most relied upon vehicle, getting daily use year-round in all weather and all seasons. It is used to check road conditions, get parts, deliver materials and equipment to roadwork jobsites, pull the wood chipper, haul brush, plow and sand in Riverside and other side roads, and spot sand/plow small areas instead of using a larger vehicle that consumes more fuel. The 2005 has over 7,000 engine hours and has been driven more than 120,000 miles.

The CV515 will be equipped with a 350 HP diesel engine, power-angle front plow, a wing plow, and a stainless-steel all-season body. Many towns in Franklin County are using wing plows on their trucks of this size, and the wing allows the Highway crew to save time and fuel during snowstorms by making one pass up and back on a road instead of having to make two passes with just the front plow. An all-season body allows the vehicle to safely and quickly switch from sanding to other uses without having to remove a slide-in sander.

Once the CV515 is delivered, the plan is to transfer the bucket truck assembly from the 1995 GMC chassis and install it on the 2005 Ford F550 chassis. While the 2005 is an old and tired vehicle, it still has some usable life left in it for the less frequent demands of a bucket truck.

Photographs of a similarly-equipped CV515, the 2005 Ford F550, the 1995 GMC bucket truck, and the International HV507SFA truck ordered last year are included on both sides of the last page of this handout.

The Selectboard has also already submitted a purchase order for the CV515 in order to hold the Town's place in the ever-growing list of vehicle purchasers. Based on current lead times, the CV515 will arrive _____. The purchase order may be cancelled without cost or penalty if the necessary

funding is not approved by Town voters. In addition, the Selectboard has voted to use \$48,407 of the Town's ARPA funds to defray the Town's cost of this new highway truck.

The \$31,593 of Free Cash used in this article would have otherwise been allocated to either the Capital or General Stabilization Fund, and the Selectboard and Finance Committee agreed it is better to put the money to use and avoid having to borrow for this truck.

At last year's Town Meeting voters set aside \$30,000 of Free Cash in an account to be used at the Selectboard's discretion to make repairs to the 2009 Sterling (yellow) truck. With the new 2022 International HV507SFA truck (ordered in July 2021) due to be delivered to the Town in about 8 weeks, the 2009 Sterling is no longer needed, and it is felt sinking more money into that vehicle would not appreciably increase its trade-in or auction value.

As was noted in the handout for last year's Town Meeting, the "Selectboard and Finance Committee recognize there are several significant vehicle replacement and building maintenance projects on the visible horizon, and the reserves in the General Stabilization Fund could be used to reduce the amount of borrowing for those projects." The motion for this article makes the responsible use of \$20,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund (current balance of \$53,075 and \$28,075 if Article 17 is approved).

By making use of the available funds, this necessary vehicle can be purchased without any need to borrow.

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 conduct an assessment of the condition of the Town's roads and road-related infrastructure, and to identify funding strategies for the adequate long-term upkeep of the same, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 19.

The Finance Committee recommends passing over this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

This article was placed on the Town Meeting warrant as a way inform the citizens of Gill of a general decline in the condition of Gill's roadways due to a history of severe underfunding at the federal, state, and local levels. There are approximately 34 miles of town-maintained roads in Gill, with about 7 miles of gravel roads and 27 miles of paved roads. While the annual operating budget for the Highway Department includes funds for the upkeep and maintenance of our gravel roads, the expense to resurface the paved roads is paid using the Chapter 90 funds received each year from the state.

The statewide total for Chapter 90 funds has remained stagnant at \$200 million dollars per year since Fiscal Year 2012 (except for a one-year bump to \$300 million in Fiscal Year 2015), and Gill's share of those funds has declined from \$152,763 in Fiscal Year 2012 to \$146,309 in Fiscal Year 2023. Meanwhile, costs continue to rise, with a current cost of \$250,000 to mill and pave (depth of 2 inches) one mile of road. The cost to catch up and stay current with our roads is staggering!

It is possible the road condition assessment requested in this article could be conducted at no cost to the Town by Transportation Planning staff at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments using grant funds. The Selectboard will continue to explore options and solutions related to the road condition assessment and funding strategies for the maintenance of Gill's roads.

Article 20: 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 add to the account to install a new roof at the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs, and including a feasibility study for the roof replacement and installation of a solar photovoltaic system on the building roof, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$20,000.00 (TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be added to the account to install a new roof at the Riverside Municipal Building, including any and all incidental and related costs, and including a feasibility study for the roof replacement and installation of a solar photovoltaic system on the building roof.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

The existing asphalt shingles on the Riverside Municipal Building roof were installed in 1979 and are starting to deteriorate. In 2018 the Town set aside \$23,900 toward a roof replacement project, and this

article adds to that account. The south face of the building's roof (the river side of the building) is ideally oriented for solar panels, and the Energy Commission has recommended a feasibility study be conducted to analyze the condition of the roof and its structural supports, the electricity generation potential of roof-mounted solar panels, and the estimated cost of a combined project to replace the roof and install a solar photovoltaic system. The feasibility study, with a suggested cost of \$20,000, would likely be performed by an engineer or architect, and would include schematics and specifications that could be used as part of the bid process for the new roof and solar panels.

Article 21: 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 add to the account previously established for the purpose of remediating water, humidity and mold from the basement of the Town Hall, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved to pass over Article 21.

The Finance Committee recommends passing over this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

While this project remains as a priority for the Town, it was decided to not allocate additional funds to it this year. The account for this project has a current balance of \$53,418.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the 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 \$8,738.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS) and further transfer \$5,000.00 (FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), for a total of \$13,738.00 for the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

This article continues to set aside money to meet future expenses of the Town's obligation to provide health insurance for current and future retirees. In October 2021 the Town received an updated calculation on its Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability, prepared by Odyssey Advisors. As of June 30, 2021 our total OPEB liability was \$862,476 and we had funded \$89,628 – a funding ratio of just over 10%. According to Odyssey Advisors, Gill's unfunded "liabilities on a per capita basis are in-line with or below what we normally see for communities of similar size, so you're doing well in that regard."

By placing money into its OPEB fund, the Town demonstrates to banks and other potential lenders it recognizes the financial liability and is doing its best to save for it. In turn, the Town receives slightly better loan rates when it borrows money for building maintenance, vehicle and equipment purchases, and other purposes.

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, Energy, Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs, or General), or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$2,000.00 (TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be placed into the Energy Stabilization Fund and further transfer \$15,000.00 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be placed into the Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs Stabilization Fund and further transfer \$12,100.00 (TWELVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be placed into the Education Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

This article transfers Free Cash into several of the Town's stabilization funds. The recommended amounts are intended to contribute toward the fiscal stability and financial reserves of the Town.

There is currently \$53,075 in the Capital Stabilization Fund, \$156,068 in the Education Stabilization Fund, \$29,558 in the Energy Stabilization Fund, \$44,919 in the Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs Stabilization Fund, and \$373,822 in the General Stabilization Fund. (Totals do not include amounts voted in or out by other articles considered today.)

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

The \$15,000 in this motion for the Fire Department SCBA/Air Packs Stabilization Fund continues the savings program established in 2019 to set aside funds for the future replacement of the air packs used by the Fire Department. The 20 air packs were purchased new in 2017 using \$144,500 in grant and donated funds, and have 15-year certifications for use.

The figure of \$12,100 proposed for transfer into the Education Stabilization Fund represents the difference between the Fiscal Year 2023 (next year's) assessments for the Gill-Montague Regional School District and the Franklin County Technical School and what these assessments would have been if there had been 2.5% increases over the Fiscal Year 2022 (this year's) assessments. Putting money into the Education Stabilization Fund will provide a reserve that can be used in future years when assessment increases are greater than 2.5%.

If any of the articles of the Annual Town Meeting are amended or defeated, it is anticipated the amounts in this article will be adjusted accordingly in order to maintain a balanced budget that does not require an override.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum 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 2023, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to transfer \$50,000.00 (FIFTY THOUSAND 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 2023.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Free Cash is the money that remains unspent in department budgets from the previous year, plus any revenues in excess of what was anticipated when the tax rate was set. The Free Cash from Fiscal Year 2021 was certified by the Department of Revenue to be \$147,893. The following are the recommended uses of this year's Free Cash:

\$10,000	Article 12	Gill Elementary School building management system
\$2,200	Article 15	Electronic vote tabulator
\$31,593	Article 18	Highway Department truck
\$20,000	Article 20	Riverside Building new roof and roof/solar feasibility study
\$5,000	Article 22	Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB")
\$29,100	Article 23	Fiscal Year 2023 contributions to various stabilization funds
\$50,000	Article 24	(this article) to reduce the Fiscal Year 2023 tax rate

Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles considered earlier in this meeting, a different amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the Fiscal Year 2023 tax rate.

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 9th day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty Two (05/09/2022).

Selectboard of Gill

Gregory M. Snedeker, Chair

Randy P. Crochier, Board member

Charles J. Garbiel II, 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 Telecommunications Relay Service at 711, or MassRelay at (800) 439-2370 for TTY devices.

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 10 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY23			
	Omnibus Budget for 05/23/2022 Annual Town Meeting	FY21 Approved with COLA	FY22 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
1	GENERAL GOVERNMENT						
2	Moderator (Stipend & Expenses)	403.61	406.65	408.00	1.35	0.3%	
3	Selectboard Stipends	7,726.20	7,826.44	7,828.00	1.56		
4	Selectboard Expenses	3,924.05	4,017.18	4,028.00	10.82	0.3%	
5	Town Admin & Admin Clerk (Salary&Exp.)	82,150.90	89,224.32	89,231.00	6.68		
6	Finance Committee	185.00	185.00	189.00	4.00	2.2%	
7	Reserve Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	-		
8	Accountant Expenses	150.00	150.00	150.00	-		
9	Assessors Stipends	9,383.40	9,506.00	9,508.00	2.00		
10	Assessors Clerical Salary	22,977.88	29,377.00	33,627.00	4,250.00	14.5%	Hours increased from 26 to 30 per week
11	Assessors Expenses	12,715.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	-		
12	Treasurer Salary	22,874.54	23,172.50	23,173.00	0.50		
13	Treasurer Expenses	8,405.00	8,105.00	8,755.00	650.00	8.0%	Financial services for new loans; postage & envelopes
14	Tax Collector Salary	25,368.46	25,698.92	25,699.00	0.08		
15	Tax Collector Expenses	8,584.00	10,412.00	10,762.00	350.00	3.4%	Increased funds for tax title expenses
16	Legal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-		
17	IT Committee	3,535.00	3,535.00	4,190.00	655.00	18.5%	2 Zoom accounts; increased cost of computers
18	Town Clerk Salary	22,526.14	22,819.94	22,820.00	0.06		
19	Town Clerk Expenses	1,904.00	1,904.00	1,945.00	41.00	2.2%	
20	Elections/Registrars	9,469.00	7,256.00	10,885.00	3,629.00	50.0%	Increase from 3 to 4 elections in FY23; early voting staff
21	Conservation Commission	634.00	634.00	634.00	-		
22	Agricultural Commission	380.00	380.00	380.00	-		
23	Planning Board	685.00	685.00	685.00	-		
24	Zoning Board of Appeals	185.00	185.00	185.00	-		
25	Energy Commission	475.00	475.00	475.00	-		
26	Town Hall/Riverside Bldg Operations	21,562.42	26,587.00	28,907.00	2,320.00	8.7%	Town Hall electricity; annual fire alarm testing
27	Building Repairs & Maintenance	16,650.00	17,500.00	17,750.00	250.00	1.4%	
28	Garage/Public Safety Bldg Operations	18,767.00	19,150.00	25,862.00	6,712.00	35.0%	Heating oil; electricity; building maintenance; Comcast
29	GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	308,120.60	325,191.95	344,076.00	18,884.05	5.8%	
30							

Article 10 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY23			
	Omnibus Budget for 05/23/2022 Annual Town Meeting	FY21 Approved with COLA	FY22 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
31	PUBLIC SAFETY						
32	Police Department	208,950.53	215,316.44	232,508.00	17,191.56	8.0%	New contract for Police Chief; holiday pay when Sergeant works shifts on holidays
33	Fire Department	96,425.09	103,025.21	114,931.00	11,905.79	11.6%	Diesel fuel; Added funding to pay Fire Chief per call (in addition to 9 hr/wk stipend) if policy change is approved
34	Emergency Management	5,955.08	5,990.52	5,990.00	(0.52)		
35	Animal Control		1,754.00	3,207.00	1,453.00	82.8%	Increase from 25% to 50% of Regional Animal Control Officer program assessment funded from budget; other 50% is from Dog Revolving Fund
36	PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	311,330.70	326,086.17	356,636.00	30,549.83	9.4%	
37							
38	PUBLIC WORKS						
39	Trees and Forestry	8,626.00	10,078.00	15,335.00	5,257.00	52.2%	Increase contracted tree removal from 4 to 6 days; protective equipment; equipment repairs
40	Highway Department	252,729.01	262,273.49	310,986.00	48,712.51	18.6%	Major increases in cost of diesel fuel, contracted services, equipment rentals, & materials; Step increases for 2 employees
41	Highway Dep't. - Snow & Ice Removal	63,970.00	63,970.00	100,186.00	36,216.00	56.6%	Major increases in cost of sand & salt, diesel fuel, & equipment repairs
42	Bridges and Street Lights	1,950.00	1,950.00	2,000.00	50.00	2.6%	
43	Solid Waste & Recycling	110,500.00	115,445.00	128,056.00	12,611.00	10.9%	Contractual increases for collection; fuel surcharges; higher trash disposal fees
44	Solid Waste District Assessment	4,164.00	4,164.00	4,164.00	-		
45	Hazardous Waste Collection	519.00	519.00	-	(519.00)	-100.0%	State grant will cover this expense
46	Sewer	173,500.00	173,500.00	185,000.00	11,500.00	6.6%	Assumes a 2% increase in disposal rates charged by Montague; Includes 6% COLA for employees
47	Cemetery Commission	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-		
48	Memorial Committee	830.00	874.00	902.00	28.00	3.2%	Higher cost of geraniums & flags that need to be replaced
49	PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	626,788.01	642,773.49	756,629.00	113,855.51	17.7%	
50							

Article 10 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY23			
	Omnibus Budget for 05/23/2022 Annual Town Meeting	FY21 Approved with COLA	FY22 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
51	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES						
52	Board of Health Salaries	4,251.56	4,307.28	4,308.00	0.72		
53	Board of Health Expenses	2,512.04	5,521.20	5,521.00	(0.20)		Membership for Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District is included in FY21 and FY22
54	Council on Aging	8,856.00	9,091.00	10,139.00	1,048.00	11.5%	Gill-Montague Senior Center Director's hours increased from 17 to 21 per week
55	Veterans District Assessment	3,008.00	3,553.00	3,476.00	(77.00)	-2.2%	
56	Veterans Benefits	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	-		
57	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL	22,627.60	26,472.48	27,444.00	971.52	3.7%	
58							
59	CULTURE & RECREATION						
60	Library	29,414.09	31,458.91	31,575.00	116.09	0.4%	
61	Recreation Committee			1,000.00	1,000.00		Recreation Committee has re-started! Volunteers wanted.
62	Historical Commission	850.00	850.00	890.00	40.00	4.7%	
63	CULTURE & RECREATION TOTAL	30,264.09	32,308.91	33,465.00	1,156.09	3.6%	
64							
65	FIXED COSTS						
66	Town Insurance	42,000.00	41,680.00	45,695.00	4,015.00	9.6%	Higher premiums for several new vehicles; increasing coverage for building contents
67	Mariamante Loan (debt exclusion)	26,501.00	25,138.00	-	(25,138.00)	-100.0%	Loan is paid off
68	Energy Bond	9,467.00	9,967.00	10,467.00	500.00	5.0%	Increase is part of schedule for paying off bond in FY28
69	Retirement System	98,733.00	102,106.00	104,730.00	2,624.00	2.6%	
70	Group Health and Life Insurance	109,472.00	109,472.00	105,750.00	(3,722.00)	-3.4%	
71	FIXED COSTS TOTAL	286,173.00	288,363.00	266,642.00	(21,721.00)	-7.5%	
72							
73	FRCOG ASSESSMENT						
74	Statutory & Reg'l Services Assessments	10,170.00	9,606.00	9,374.00	(232.00)	-2.4%	
75	Accounting Program	29,543.00	30,749.00	31,792.00	1,043.00	3.4%	
76	Health Agent/Cooperative Public Health	11,567.00	11,798.00	12,270.00	472.00	4.0%	
77	Cooperative Inspection Program	7,600.00	7,600.00	7,600.00	-		
78	FRCOG ASSESSMENT TOTAL	58,880.00	59,753.00	61,036.00	1,283.00	2.1%	
79							

Article 10 - Omnibus Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
				FY23			
	Omnibus Budget for 05/23/2022 Annual Town Meeting	FY21 Approved with COLA	FY22 Approved with COLA	Selectboard & Finance Comm. Recommended	Increase / (Decrease) (D - C)	% Change	Notes
80	EDUCATION						
81	Gill-Montague Reg. Sch. Dist.						To be discussed and voted under Article 11
82	GMRSD Bldg Loan						To be discussed and voted under Article 11
83	Franklin County Technical School	193,741.00	229,193.00	235,367.00	6,174.00	2.7%	Gill's enrollment increased 13% from 15 to 17 students
84	EDUCATION TOTAL	193,741.00	229,193.00	235,367.00	6,174.00	2.7%	
85							
86	OMNIBUS BUDGET TOTAL	1,837,925.00	1,930,142.00	2,081,295.00	151,153.00	7.8%	
87	Less Transfer of Sewer Use Fees	74,700.00	100,000.00	115,000.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
88	Less Estimated Sewer Receipts	98,800.00	73,500.00	70,000.00			Sewer use fees offset 100% of Sewer Budget
89	TOTAL RAISED BY TAXATION	1,664,425.00	1,756,642.00	1,896,295.00	139,653.00	7.9%	

Article 10 - Omnibus Budget

Supplemental Info for Article 10 - Omnibus Budget		Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2023				
	A	B	C	D	E	F
				Selectboard & Fin. Comm. Fiscal Year 2023	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	Omnibus Budget for 05/23/2022	FY21	FY22			
1	Omnibus Budget (Town Operations)	1,830,095.00	1,917,203.00	2,081,295.00	164,092.00	8.6%
2	Warrant Articles for Projects (Spending)	86,568.00	168,020.60	313,031.00	145,010.40	86.3%
3	Warrant Articles for Stabilization Funds (Saving)		286,489.00	29,100.00	(257,389.00)	-89.8%
4	Miscellaneous (Overlay & Cherry Sheet Deducts)	71,964.31	80,932.28	81,229.00	296.72	0.4%
5	Total Town Budget	1,988,627.31	2,452,644.88	2,504,655.00	52,010.12	2.1%
6	GMRSD School Assessment (Operating & Debt)	1,795,622.00	1,724,635.00	1,751,288.00	26,653.00	1.5%
7	Grand Total Budget	3,784,249.31	4,177,279.88	4,255,943.00	78,663.12	1.9%
8	State Receipts	289,418.00	299,905.00	310,647.00	10,742.00	3.6%
9	Local Receipts	233,600.00	235,200.00	235,200.00	-	0.0%
10	Available Funds	283,500.00	604,132.60	484,893.00	(119,239.60)	-19.7%
11	Free Cash (Stabilization in FY21) to Reduce the Tax Rate	60,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	-	0.0%
12	Total Receipts	866,518.00	1,189,237.60	1,080,740.00	(108,497.60)	-9.1%
13	Grand Total Budget	3,784,249.31	4,177,279.88	4,255,943.00	78,663.12	1.9%
14	Total Receipts (Excluding Property Taxes)	866,518.00	1,189,237.60	1,080,740.00	(108,497.60)	-9.1%
15	Property Tax Assessment	2,917,731.31	2,988,042.28	3,175,203.00	187,160.72	6.3%
16	Town-wide Property Valuation (FY22 is in process)	168,752,534	179,354,279	179,354,279	(estimated)	
17	Tax Rate If All Articles Pass (per 1,000 valuation)	17.29	16.66	17.70	1.04	6.3%
18	Average Valuation of Single-Family Residence	225,468	240,420	240,420	-	0.0%
19	Average Annual Taxes of Single-Family Residence	3,898	4,005	4,256	251	6.3%

Current Dog Control bylaw of the Town of Gill

DOG CONTROL

(Passed 8/21/79, Amended 4/10/90, 6/9/97, 5/1/06, & 5/9/11)

No person shall keep any dog which by biting, barking, or in any other manner disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or endangers the safety of any person.

No person owning or keeping a dog shall permit such dog to be at large elsewhere than on the premises of the owner or keeper; except if it be on the premises of another person with the permission of such other person, or while hunting on unposted land providing the dog is under the owner's control. A dog not on the premises of the owner, or keeper, shall be under the control of the owner, or keeper, of said dog at all times.

In any prosecution hereunder, the presence of such dog at large upon premises other than the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, when the owner or keeper is not present to control the dog, shall be prima facie evidence that such permission was not obtained. Any dog found to be at large in violation of this bylaw shall be confined by the dog officer who shall notify forthwith the licensed owner or keeper of said dog giving the owner or keeper a period of seven (7) days within which to recover the dog.

The licensed owner or keeper of said dog confined by the dog officer shall be fined \$10.00 for the first offense, \$25.00 for the second offense, and \$50.00 for any further offense. Following the third offense, said dog may be subject to removal from the town, adoption, or any other action necessary to ensure compliance with this by-law. The above fines shall be in addition to any fees or charges for board assessed by a kennel or other person or entity authorized by the dog officer to board dogs.

Return of the dog to the licensed owner or keeper shall be dependent on admission of ownership or the assumption of responsibility by the licensed owner or keeper. The dog officer shall enter and prosecute a complaint against the owner or keeper of any dog taken into custody under the section provided, however, if within the twelve months preceding this offense the owner or keeper has not been convicted for violation of this bylaw or dog owned or kept by him, has not been taken into custody for violation of the bylaw, the dog officer may waive prosecution.

The town accepts the provision of MGL Chapter 140, section 147A to empower the town to enact by-laws and ordinances relative to the regulation of dogs.

Move the Town vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for which revenues from fees or fines related to the licensing and care of dogs will be deposited into the fund and expended to purchase dog tags, pay for various expenses in relation to licensing, care and other related dog control expenses under the direction of the Town Clerk. Total expenditures for the fiscal year begin on July 1st with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year. This revolving fund to be re-established annually.

Move the town vote to establish the following bylaw pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 140: The registering, numbering, description and licensing, pursuant to the provisions of MGL chapter 140, of all dogs and kennels in the Town of Gill shall be conducted in the office of the Town Clerk. Said licensing period is from April 1 to March 31. All dogs six months of age or older shall be licensed and have a current rabies inoculation as required under MGL chapter 140, sections 137 and 145B as amended.

The fees shall be as prescribed in MGL chapter 140, except that the annual fee for the licenses shall be:

- Male.....\$10
- Female.....\$10
- Neutered Male.....\$5
- Spayed Female\$5
- Kennel license
 - a. Not more than four dogs.....\$15
 - b. Five to nine dogs.....\$30
 - c. Ten or more dogs.....\$50

An additional late fee of \$10 for every dog shall be assessed to a dog owner who fails to properly license his dog by (April 1) of any year.

The Select Board as deemed necessary will approve any future changes (which will require a future vote at town meeting) to the fee structure of the dog licensing program. Kennel fees shall be set from time to time by the Selectboard and shall reflect the cost for boarding and care of a dog on a daily basis.

No fee shall be charged for a license for a service dog specifically trained and certified as such. No license fee or part thereof shall be refunded because of a subsequent death, loss, spaying, neutering, removal from the Town or any other disposal of the dog.

Any payments made for damages are subject to Chapter 140, section 161A and in no case shall exceed \$500.

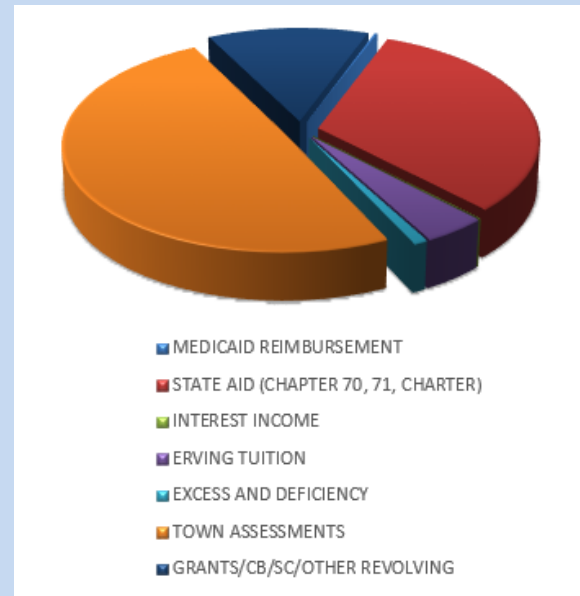
Gill-Montague Regional School District FY23 Budget Proposal

GMRSD has developed an FY23 budget based upon Montague’s affordable assessment. The total all funds budget for FY23 represents a 9.6% increase, totaling \$26,432,465. Much of the increase is due to the one time use ESSER funds that are available to the district through September 2024.

Gill	Enrollment Percentage	Total Operating Assessment	Operating Assessment Increase	% Increase	Share of HS Debt	Debt Assessment	Total Operating & Debt Assessment	% incr from prior year
FY20	11.64%	1,634,027	14,405	0.89%	6.50%	8,968	1,642,995	0.79%
FY21	12.64%	1,785,887	151,860	9.29%	7.30%	9,735	1,795,622	9.29%
FY22	11.98%	1,711,376	(74,511)	-4.17%	10.30%	13,259	1,724,635	-3.95%
FY23	11.76%	1,741,616	30,240	1.77%	7.80%	9,672	1,751,288	1.50%

Number to Vote ↑

FY23 REVENUE SOURCES	FY22 BUDGET	FY23 BUDGET	CHANGE
Chapter 70 State Aid	7,129,856	7,778,051	648,195
Medicaid Reimbursement	100,000	100,000	0
Medicaid Contra Reneue	(47,000)	(47,000)	0
Interest Income e	7,000	8,000	1,000
Excess and Deficiency	150,000	250,000	100,000
Erving Tuition	1,150,000	1,120,000	(30,000)
Charter Reimbursement	161,840	350,000	188,160
Chapter 71 Transport. Reimburse.	270,000	334,000	64,000
TOTAL OPERATING ASSESS.	12,485,121	12,968,749	483,628
Capital Debt Assess. (TFHS)	128,730	124,005	(4,725)
Capital Debt Assess. (Sheffield)	61,638	0	(61,638)
Grants/Revolving Accounts	1,520,000	1,548,517	28,517
ESSER Grant Funds	196,000	1,076,405	880,405
Circuit Breaker Revolving	210,000	132,432	(77,568)
School Choice Revolving	600,000	689,306	89,306
TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	24,123,185	26,432,465	2,309,280
All Funds %Increase			9.6%



FY23 EXPENDITURES	FY23 GENERAL FUND	FY23 CIRCUIT BREAKER BUDGET	FY23 CHOICE BUDGET	FY23 ESSER GRANT	FY23 GRANTS/ REVOLVING BUDGET	FY23 ALL FUNDS PROPOSED
ADMINISTRATION (1000)	679,431	-	-	-	-	679,431
INSTRUCTIONAL (2000)	10,022,034	-	598,850	880,116	407,575	11,908,574
STUDENT SERMCES (3000)	1,249,030	-	-	46,398	880,882	2,176,310
OPERATIONS (4000)	1,944,373	-	-	100,309	-	2,044,682
BENEFITS & INSURANCE (5000)	5,211,947	-	-	49,582	27,005	5,288,534
COMMUNITY PROGRAM (6000)	26,561	-	-	-	-	26,561
TUITION (9000)	3,728,425	132,432	90,456	-	233,055	4,184,368
CAPITAL DEBT (8000)	124,005	-	-	-	-	124,005
TOTAL BUDGET	22,985,805	132,432	689,306	1,076,405	1,548,517	26,432,465

FY23 Budget Plans

- This budget will enable the district to:
 - Maintain current programs.
 - Continue to assess and respond to pandemic learning loss of both academic and social/emotional growth.
 - Add elementary math interventionists to support the implementation of the elementary math improvement plan.
 - Addition of i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment in Math & ELA in Grades 6-12.
 - Addition of a Dean of Students at Sheffield Elementary School.
 - Addition of Special Education Support at Gill Elementary School.
 - Continue the expansion of innovation pathways programing in health and social services.
 - Add a teacher of advanced manufacturing courses in the innovation pathways program.
 - This budget also enables us to continue to expand our 1:1 computing initiative.

FY23 Revenues

- Gill-Montague’s preliminary Chapter 70 increased based on a number of reasons including:
 - Foundation Budget rate increases
 - Enrollment increase
 - Low income enrollment
- Generosity from our towns in the form of Town Assessment increases
- One time use ESSER Grants allocated to the district and available through September 2024.

Enrollment Trends

YEAR	FY20	FY21	FY22
Foundation Enrollment	1,072	974	1020
District Enrollment	934	849	842
K-8 Enrollment	737	660	658
TFHS Enrollment	199	189	184
Year	FY20	FY21	FY22
Choice In	83	65	63
Choice out	239	201	216
YEAR	FY20	FY21	FY22
Charter	61	63	77

Capital Request

- **Request of \$10K to replace Building Management workstation & software.** The computer that runs the Gill heating system is having frequent failures and shutdowns and needs replacement with a system with notification capability for the system or user authentication. Notification would have alerted us to the boiler failures that occurred over the winter and user authentication can restrict who has access to certain parts of the system. The original system was purchased as part of the Siemens project.

Article 17 - Photographs of Fire Department Vehicles



Pierce "Responder"



1987 KME Engine 1

Article 17 - Photographs of Fire Department Vehicles



Ford F550 Brush Truck (recommended by Capital Improvement Planning Committee for purchase next year, Fiscal Year 2024)



1986 Chevy M1008 Brush Truck (all equipment would be transferred to the new chassis)

Article 18 - Photographs of Highway Department Vehicles



International CV515 with front plow & wing plow



2005 Ford F550 (to be repurposed as the chassis for the bucket truck body & boom)

Article 18 - Photographs of Highway Department Vehicles

1995 GMC Sierra Bucket Truck
(bucket body & boom to be transferred to chassis of 2005 Ford F550)



2022 International HV507SFA Truck with front plow & wing plow
(ordered in July 2021, delivery expected in 8 weeks, ours will be red)