

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2009

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:29 p.m.

Present

Nancy Griswold, Ann Banash, Leland Stevens, Selectboard members; Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant; Claire Chang, Finance Committee member; John Ward, resident; Chet Kuzontkoski, Memorial Committee Chair.

Memorial Committee Report

Chet reported on the status and current projects of the Memorial Committee. He stated that the Committee recently discovered that 75% of the costs of the flags it purchases will be reimbursed by the Veterans' Administration. He stated the Committee is soliciting donations. The Selectboard recommended Tracy including something in the next newsletter requesting donations. Chet left the meeting.

Review Minutes

The Board unanimously approved minutes of its February 17 meeting as written.

Bernardston Police Chief

Tracy reported that Bernardston has appointed Officer Palmeri as a true police chief for one year. She has sent an e-mail to Bernardston asking if they still want to pursue sharing shift coverage and an e-mail to Northfield seeking their reaction to the news. Neither parties have responded at this time.

Liability Questions

Tracy presented an e-mail from Highway Superintendent Mickey LaClaire inquiring about potential liability issues. The first question involved a Meadow Street resident who has been snowmobiling on the ball field at the Riverside Municipal Building, which is public property. Who would be liable if he was injured while on public property? The Board asked Tracy to inform the police department.

The second question involved patrons of the Gill Store & Tavern parking in public parking spaces. If someone fell on the ice, who would be liable? Mickey asked if he could put signs up restricting parking. The Board asked Tracy to check with MIA.

MGL Chapter 40, Section 22F

Tracy reported that, in conversations with the Dept. of Revenue, Assessor Ray Purington ascertained that Town Meeting must adopt MGL c. 40, §22F in order to allow boards and committees to set their own fees. Looking through several years of town meeting minutes, Ray was unable to find evidence that that had ever occurred. Tracy recommended the statute be placed on the annual town meeting warrant for adoption and the Board agreed.

Planning Board Report

Doug Smith, Chair of the Planning Board, joined the meeting. He reported that the Board is currently revising the town's subdivision rules and regulations, which have not been updated since 1973. The Board held a public hearing a few weeks ago and is working to incorporate feedback from the hearing.

Doug reported that the Board's clerical assistant, Bonnie Welcome, is doing great work. They would not have been able to get the subdivision rules and regulations revised without her assistance. Doug left the meeting.

DOR Recommendations

Nancy reported that the February 24 meeting with the Dept. of Revenue to discuss the results of the Financial Management Review was very helpful. Ann asked if the Board could table further discussion of the review until she has a chance to read it thoroughly. Matter was tabled until the March 16 meeting.

Purchase Order Procedures

Tracy reported that not all department heads were following the purchase order procedures of filing a purchase order for any purchase over \$50. The Board reiterated that any purchase short of an emergency needs a purchase order presented BEFORE the purchase is made.

Cops More Grant

Tracy reported that there is a possibility of the town applying for a federal grant to pay for one full-time officer. The grant is for \$75,000 for three years, with the expectation that the town will take over the cost burden in the fourth year. Tracy also presented the idea of applying jointly with another town to share a full-time officer. The Board instructed Tracy to get more details and to talk to Northfield about a joint application.

Sewer Abatement

Collector-Treasurer Ronnie LaChance joined the meeting to inquire about the possibility of granting a sewer abatement for a Riverside resident who had a water leak in her vacant house. Lee said he would check with Mickey to see if there was a spike in the sewer pump meter during the timeframe the leak happened, to see if any of it had gone into the sewer system. The abatement was tabled until the next meeting.

Retirement Eligibility for Fire Chief

Ronnie reported that she has a call into the Retirement Board to inquire whether Fire Chief Beaubien's salary associated with performing inspections could be counted toward his eligibility for retirement benefits. However, the determination of service eligibility form was due back to the Board February 27. She asked if the Selectboard would be willing to sign the verification form with the understanding that Ronnie would adjust the annual salary line once, if necessary, once she received an answer from the Retirement Board. The Selectboard agreed that was alright and Nancy signed the form. Ronnie left the meeting.

Purchase Orders

The Board approved the following purchase orders:

- € Ribco Supply Co., plow blades, Highway Dept. expense, \$2,622.00
- € Leader Home Centers, garage repairs, Highway Dept. expense, \$222.91
- € Unknown vendor, two-way radios, Highway Dept. expense, \$740.00
- € Baystate Roads, OSHA training for Mickey, Highway Dept. expense, \$100.00

Ann questioned why the Highway Dept. needed to purchase new two-way radios. Lee explained that the current radios aren't compatible with Dispatch. Ann will research this issue through the FRCOG.

FY10 Budget Timeline

Tracy asked the Board if they still wanted to aim for budget meetings with department heads in late March. The Board asked Tracy to contact Rep. Kulik to see if he has a better idea of when the House budget is due to come out. Meetings with department heads should be scheduled after the House budget is released.

The Board also asked Tracy to check on the status of allowing towns to access dental insurance, etc., through the GIC.

Franklin County Technical School Oil

Tracy reported that the Tech School is converting to a propane heating system and has offered up to 2,000 gallons of heating oil to member towns. She is currently working with Sandri Oil to pick up the oil from the Tech School and deliver it to the tanks in town buildings. Sandri will charge a nominal fee (perhaps \$500) for delivery, but the almost \$7,000 in free fuel will offset that charge!

Payroll and Bill Warrants

The Board approved payroll and bill warrant number 18. The Board questioned one bill schedule that was filled out to be paid from the Cultural Council funds, but was posted to the Historical Commission account. Ronnie joined the meeting and agreed to look into it. Ronnie left the meeting.

Fire Department

Chief Gene Beaubien and Engineer Stuart Elliott joined the meeting. Tracy reported that the omission of criminal charge information on Paul Sweeney, Jr.'s application had been taken care of—there have been no criminal charges against him. Gene reported that the department conducts CORI checks on all firefighters and that all three applicants are over

16 years of age. Ann made a motion to appoint Luke Ketchum and Alden Winn as firefighters, and Paul Sweeney, Jr. pending a medical evaluation. Lee seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Gene reported that the MassCall grant has been funded, which will result in television ads recruiting firefighters. The ads will refer viewers to call their local department for more information.

Tracy asked which Selectboard member would attend upcoming Vermont Yankee drills. Nancy volunteered.

Gene reported that Roseledge had not returned his calls regarding the possibility of repairing the pump on Engine 1. The Board gave him the go ahead to make arrangements with KME Fire and signed a purchase order to that effect.

The Board also approved a purchase order for Firematic Supply to pay for hydro testing of 40 SCBA bottles.

Gene reported that the siren at NMH will be tested April 1, 7:00 p.m. Vermont Yankee will also be testing their Reverse 911 system that evening, which Gill may access for its own emergencies in the future.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant.

Ann H. Banash, Selectboard Clerk