

# TOWN OF GILL

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



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## SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

*April 3, 2018*

Called to Order: The Selectboard and Finance Committee were called to order at 7:23 PM.

Selectboard Members Present: Randy Crochier, John Ward, Greg Snedeker      Members Absent: None

Finance Committee Members Present: Claire Chang, Tupper Brown, Sandy Brown, Timmie Smith, and Ronnie LaChance      Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant; Chris Redmond, Joan Pillsbury, and Gary Bourbeau

Review of Minutes: There were no minutes ready for review.

### Review of FY19 Budget Requests:

2.1 Police Department – Police Chief Chris Redmond presented his FY19 budget request. The request for salaries is down by \$12,817 from FY18 due to changes in personnel (retirement of David Hastings, promotion of Redmond from Sergeant to Chief, and hiring of Jason Bassett as Sergeant). The request for expenses is up by \$5,891, including \$1,875 for a maintenance contract on the body cameras and cruiser cameras, \$1,300 to replace the oldest of the Department's three Tasers, and \$2,000 to cover Gill's share of camera access, insurance, and maintenance for the surveillance cameras on the French King Bridge.

Redmond has submitted a request to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee for the replacement of the 2008 Crown Vic cruiser, which has approximately 134,000 miles (and a broken odometer). The 2013 cruiser, primarily driven by Sergeant Bassett, has 65,000 miles, and the 2017 cruiser, primarily driven by Redmond, has 10,000 miles. The requested new cruiser is a Ford Interceptor Utility, and costs approximately \$42,000. There was discussion about hybrid cruisers that are on the state bid, including a Ford Fusion (or a similar mid-size sedan). This is reportedly the first year of a hybrid PPV (police pursuit vehicle). Redmond expressed concern about purchasing a vehicle in its first model year.

Redmond noted there has been a significant increase in activity in 2018, with 700 calls for service since January 1<sup>st</sup>. By comparison, there were approximately 900 calls for all of 2017. Different shift coverage and the easier-to-use dispatch software and new mobile data terminals may account some of the extra calls being logged.

There was discussion of a proposal to allow officers who work details to be paid on the next payroll rather than waiting until after the Town receives payment from the contractor. According to the Town Accountant, the existing "Off Duty Police Detail" account may be used in this way if the Selectboard adopts a policy change for the account. There was support for this change among the Selectboard, and the matter will be included on the agenda for their next regular business meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

After receiving accolades for his work as Police Chief, Redmond left the meeting at 8:15 PM.

3.7 Cemetery Commission – Cemetery Commissioners Joan Pillsbury (Chair) and Gary Bourbeau (Treasurer) presented their FY19 budget request for \$6,000, which is an increase of \$1,500 over FY18. They explained the increase is due to having a fourth cemetery, Riverside, to maintain. There are maintenance and upkeep projects planned for all four cemeteries, including removal of dangerous trees and limbs, clearing brush, and clearing and/or removing fences. Some of this work will be performed by volunteers and jail inmates on work release, and some of the work will be contracted and paid for with Perpetual Care funds.

Pillsbury and Bourbeau left the meeting at 8:50 PM. LaChance left the meeting at 8:50 PM.

3.8 Memorial Committee – The FY19 budget request for the Memorial Committee was reviewed. The \$874 request includes an increase of \$40 that is largely attributable to the need to buy an additional tray of geraniums to plant on veterans’ graves.

Tupper made a motion, seconded by Sandy, to accept the three budgets reviewed tonight (2.1 Police Department, 3.7 Cemetery Commission, and 3.8 Memorial Committee). The vote of the Finance Committee was 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, and 1 absent. Acting by consensus, the Selectboard unanimously approved the three budgets as well.

The Finance Committee and Selectboard adjourned their meetings at 9:05 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.*

*Signed copy on file. Approved on 04/09/2018*

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Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk

Adopted by the Finance Committee in lieu of separate Finance Committee minutes on 04/19/2018.