



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

April 13, 2020

Location: Teleconference - access info in the agenda

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
(all other times are approximate)

This meeting is being conducted remotely by all participants due to the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 and under the “Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting, G.L. c. 30A, §20” issued by Governor Baker on 3/12/20. FreeConferenceCall.com is being utilized for the teleconference. It is audio only. Anyone wishing to participate may call 712-775-7031 and then enter the Access Code of 883-045-865. The toll-free number is 844-800-5000 – the Town is charged by the minute per caller, so please use this only when necessary.

5:30 PM Call to Order (If the meeting is being videotaped, announce that fact. If remote participation will occur, announce member & reason, & need for roll call voting)

COVID-19 Topics

- Updates from weekly conference call with Gill’s Emergency Management Team
- Rescheduling Town Election and Town Meeting
- Option to extend due date for property tax bill & exemption filings and option to waive interest & penalties on late payments

Old Business

- Riverside Sewer Pump Station - wet well cleaned on 4/9, float/pump alarms
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
 - Tentative location near Town Hall & Town Common
 - Possible cost to Town if Green Community grant is not awarded
- Municipal Aggregation of Electricity
 - Vote needed to accept bid timeline outlined by Colonial Power in 3/30 email
 - Authorization for May 20 executable prices based on May 13 indicative pricing

New Business

- Sewer Commitment – Bill date of 4/14/20, \$45,518.76 & authorize Chair to sign
- Appointments
 - Board of Fire Engineers for 5/1/20 – 4/30/21
 - Jake Whitney as a Junior Firefighter thru 6/30/20
- Resignation – Chet Kuzontkoski from Memorial Committee & Veterans’ Graves Officer effective 6/30/20
- Correspondence – Gill Historical Commission letter to MassDOT requesting removal of “Gill-Montague Bridge” sign from the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any

Warrants:

FY20 # 21 – reviewed & signed by the Chair on 4/1; Payroll \$27,656.24, Vendors \$23,136.40

FY20 #22 – to be reviewed & signed by the Chair and reported on at the next meeting

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/27	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD
5/11	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:38 PM
To: 'Greg Snedeker (gksnedeker@gmail.com)'; 'John R Ward (johnrward.ward54@gmail.com)'; 'Randy Crochier (hxydad77@yahoo.com)'
Cc: Claire Chang (claire@solarstoreofgreenfield.com)
Subject: FW: Franklin County Municipal Aggregation - Proposed RFP Schedule [RESPONSE REQUIRED BY APRIL 15]
Attachments: FRCOG Participation Sheet 3.26.20.docx
Importance: High

This is a summary of the conference call from Thursday, March 26th that discussed the municipal electricity aggregation program for Gill and 12 other towns. Claire, Vicky, and Janet participated in the call for Gill. Claire has offered to call in to tonight's SB meeting to go over the info. Given the time-sensitive nature of the topic, I think it makes sense to include this tonight under "Other business."

The summary outlines the next steps for the program and includes an April 15th deadline for each town to provide feedback on the proposed process. By having the initial discussion tonight, we can develop questions and get answers in time for your April 13th meeting and still meet the April 15th deadline. Any necessary votes and authorizations can happen on April 15th.

I will add this email to the Agenda PDF file that's on the website, so teleconference participants will have access to the info.

Ray

From: Denise Allard [mailto:denise@colonialpowergroup.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 12:50 PM
To: administrator@gillmass.org;
Cc: Mark Cappadona <Mark@colonialpowergroup.com>; Stuart Ormsbee <sormsbee@colonialpowergroup.com>; Bob Dean <BDean@frcog.org>
Subject: Franklin County Municipal Aggregation - Proposed RFP Schedule [RESPONSE REQUIRED BY APRIL 15]

Good afternoon –

This email is being sent to the Towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Huntington, New Salem, Northfield, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick and Whately.

We want to thank everyone for joining and participating in last Thursday night's conference call especially given the importance of everything else that's currently going on (see attached).

On the conference call, we discussed the following with the group...

1. DPU Order & Compliance Filing
2. Indicative Pricing
3. RFP Timing for Program Launch
4. Supply Term & Product Selections
5. Program Launch

In an effort to provide a summary of what was discussed for those who were unable to join, Colonial was asked to include the key takeaways in an email so each Town could review the action items with the appropriate parties (i.e. Select Board, Energy Committee, etc).

DPU Order & Compliance Filing

As everyone already knows, on February 7, the DPU issued a joint Order for all 13 towns plus the Town of Becket, which approved the towns’ Petitions for municipal aggregation.

The DPU Order required that the towns submit what’s called a “compliance filing”, first for the Town of Becket within 21 days of receipt of the Order and then for the other towns, once approved. Compliance filings are simply a mechanism the DPU uses to bring all documents in-line with current directives. The Town of Becket’s compliance filing was stamp approved by the DPU on March 23. Subsequently, compliance filings for the other 13 towns were submitted to the DPU on March 26/27.

We don’t anticipate any issues given the proposed document revisions were already found to be acceptable by the DPU for the Town of Becket.

Indicative Pricing

As mentioned on the conference call, we’re at all-time lows in the natural gas market. Many of our other communities have been in the marketplace in the past few weeks and we’ve seen some really favorable longer-term pricing being offered.

That being said, we asked one of the suppliers to provide us with indicative pricing (for informational purposes only) for the whole group for an August 2020 start (please see below). This pricing is for a “meets RPS” product.

Meets MA Renewable Portfolio Standards* [28% renewable component for 2020]				
Opportunity Name	Term (Months)	Start Term	End Term	Price KWH
FRCOG (13 towns)	6	August 2020	February 2021	0.09142
FRCOG (13 towns)	12	August 2020	August 2021	0.09110
FRCOG (13 towns)	18	August 2020	February 2022	0.09189
FRCOG (13 towns)	24	August 2020	August 2022	0.09186
FRCOG (13 towns)	30	August 2020	February 2023	0.09250
FRCOG (13 towns)	36	August 2020	August 2023	0.09218

Compliance Year	*MA RPS + APS* [=A+B]	MA Class I RECs [A]	Other [B]
2019	24.94%	14%	10.94%
2020	27.71%	16%	11.71%
2021	TBD	18%	TBD
2022	TBD	20%	TBD
2023	TBD	22%	TBD

RFP Timing for Program Launch

Based on the indicative pricing provided above, Colonial would like to issue an RFP for all 13 towns together for an **August 2020 meter read start**.

We recognize the importance of launching each Town’s program under the then-current Basic Service rate so there are some things to consider in terms of timing and the terms for which we request pricing.

Of the 13 towns, 3 are served by National Grid (Charlemont, New Salem, Warwick) and 10 are served by Eversource (Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Huntington, Northfield, Shelburne, Sunderland and Whately).

National Grid's proposed summer Basic Service rates are already known. They're effective May 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020. The Residential Basic Service rate will be \$0.09911 (if approved by the DPU).

Eversource goes out to bid on May 5 for their summer Basic Service rates. We should know what those rates are by May 12. They're effective July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

As an FYI only, National Grid's current winter Residential Basic Service rate is \$0.13957 (effective November 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020) and Eversource's is \$0.11666 (effective January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020).

Consequently, we're proposing the following schedule:

Wed, April 29 -- Issue RFP to Suppliers

Wed, May 13 -- Indicative Pricing Due (for informational purposes only)

Wed, May 20 -- Executable Pricing Due (signatures required from each Town by 3:30 PM)

We'd set up calls for both May 13 and May 20 (likely around 1:30 or 2 PM) to review/discuss the pricing received with the group. No action will be required by the towns on April 29 or May 13.

However, on May 20, we'll need to ensure that each Town has a signatory who is both available and authorized to sign a contract by 3:30 PM that afternoon.

Supply Term & Product Selections

As I mentioned in the previous section, we'd like to issue an RFP for all 13 towns together for an **August 2020 meter read start**.

In an effort to launch each program with an aggregation rate that is as favorable as possible against the then-current National Grid/Eversource Residential Basic Service rate, we'd ask the suppliers to submit "split-term" pricing as follows:

1. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 6 months (Jan 2021 – Jul 2021)
2. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 12 months (Jan 2021 – Jan 2022)
3. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 18 months (Jan 2021 – Jul 2022)
4. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 24 months (Jan 2021 – Jan 2023)
5. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 30 months (Jan 2021 – Jul 2023)
6. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 36 months (Jan 2021 – Jan 2024)

This will result in a lower aggregation rate for the first 5 months followed by a slight "step up" in January 2021 for the remaining term of the program. This is the best approach when launching an aggregation in the summer if the towns are looking to secure long-term, stable pricing.

We'll be asking the suppliers to price the following products:

1. Meets Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)
2. 100% National Wind RECs – 100% Green Product
3. RPS + 5% MA Class I RECs
4. RPS + 25% MA Class I RECs
5. RPS + 50% MA Class I RECs
6. 100% MA Class I RECs

On May 20, each Town would select both their standard product and optional product(s) from the list above. The group would need to select one supplier and one term but the pricing may vary based on each Town's product selections.

Also, we realize that the indicative pricing we provided last Thursday (found above) was only "meets RPS". On the call, we mentioned that we took several of our Berkshire towns out to RFP roughly 2 weeks ago. Although that group's

pricing is slightly different than what we're seeing for this group (different load profile and start date) we wanted to share with you the low supplier's pricing for the various products requested. This should be helpful as it allows you to see the "step up" in pricing as you increase the renewable content, whether National Wind or MA Class I RECs. Please see below (all pricing is for a 36-month term).

Meets RPS [28% for 2020, includes Class I and Class II]	0.09255
100% National Wind RECs - 100% Green Product	0.09350
RPS + 5% MA Class I RECs [16% + 5% = 21% for 2020]	0.09433
RPS + 25% MA Class I RECs [16% + 25% = 41% for 2020]	0.10143
RPS + 50% MA Class I RECs [16% + 50% = 66% for 2020]	0.11031
100% MA Class I RECs	0.12808

If you want to see pricing for something else or for different percentages of MA Class I RECs, please let us know and we'll update the RFP accordingly. We'd like to keep it to 4 selections for MA Class I REC's (or whatever else you choose) otherwise pricing for the suppliers becomes cumbersome. One of the reasons we're recommending the "split pricing" scenario (Aug-Jan, then Jan-forward) is so we can get the Aug-Jan pricing as low as possible, which will enable the towns to increase the renewable content offered in their standard product at program launch (if desired).

Also, please keep in mind that we'll be able to make adjustments between the indicative pricing round and the executable pricing round. If, once we see indicative pricing, it makes more sense for the group to see pricing on RPS + 10% MA Class I RECs as opposed to RPS + 25% MA Class I RECs, then we can do that. Our recommendation would be for each Town to have a general idea in terms of what it would like to offer for both standard and optional products but allow room for adjustment once we see the indicative pricing.

Program Launch

Lastly, and we'll certainly touch more on this as we move forward but, in terms of an August 2020 meter read start, what does that mean?

In mid-June, the DPU-required consumer notification mailing will be sent to anyone on Basic Service (and only to those on Basic Service). The mailing will be prepared by Colonial and sent by the supplier.

The month of July will be the 30-day opt-out period for anyone on Basic Service who doesn't want to be automatically enrolled. We'd also recommend that information sessions be held at the beginning of July to coincide with receipt of the mailing.

Then, in August, anyone who hasn't opted-out (or anyone on third-party supply who has elected to join the aggregation) will be enrolled on their meter read date.

Again, we'll certainly go into more detail on this once we have an agreed upon schedule but we wanted to provide some high-level information about program launch for planning purposes.

Action Items

At this point, Colonial is only asking for each Town to review what's outlined above and confirm that it's amenable to both the schedule and approach **by close of business on Wednesday, April 15.**

As a reminder...

1. On May 13, the indicative pricing is for informational purposes only. No action is required by the Towns on that day (although we will have a pricing review call).
2. **On May 20, the executable pricing is actionable. A signatory for each Town will need to be available and authorized to sign a contract by 3:30 PM that day should pricing be favorable.**

3. With respect to the products we're asking the suppliers to price – depending on how pricing comes back on May 13, we'll be able to adjust the % of additional MA Class I RECs up or down, as needed.

We recognize that there's a lot here so please let us know if you need further clarification on anything. As mentioned on the call, if you think it would be helpful, we're happy to schedule a call with your Town, individually, to answer questions or address concerns. We're also willing to call into a Select Board meeting, if that would make more sense.

Thank you and stay safe,
Denise

Denise Allard
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(508) 485-5858 ext. 2

www.colonialpowergroup.com



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TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS Sewer Use Charges and Inspection Fees

To: Town Accountant

You are hereby notified that COMMITMENT(S) as shown below has (have) this day been made by the Board of Sewer Commissioners to Thomas Hodak, Tax Collector (Town Collector) and Collector of Sewer Charges. Bill date is April 14, 2020.

This is commitment number 2020-003.

To: Thomas Hodak, Tax Collector (Town Collector) and Collector of Sewer Charges for the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin:

You are hereby required to collect from the several persons named in the list dated April 7, 2020, herewith committed to you the amount of the sewer usage charges assessed therein to each such person, with penalties, the sum total of such list being Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen and 76/100 Dollars (\$45,518.76).

Given under our hands the 13th day of April, 2020.

John R. Ward

Randy P. Crochier

Gregory M. Snedeker

Board of Sewer Commissioners of the Town of Gill



Gill Fire Department

196A MAIN ROAD, GILL, MA 01354-1805 • (413)863-8955 • FAX (413)863-0126 • firedept@gillmass.org

4 April 2020

Board of Selectmen
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

Dear Sirs,

On Thursday, 2 April 2020, the Board of Fire Engineers unanimously approved the following members of the Gill Fire Department for your consideration of appointment to our Board for 2020-21:

Gene Beaubien
Aaron Budine
Steve Connell
Edward Curtis
Stuart Elliott
Andrew Howell
William Kimball
Greg Parody
Mitchell Waldron
Dan Ware

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Elliott". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Stuart Elliott (clerk)



Gill Fire Department

196A MAIN ROAD • GILL, MA 01354-1805 • (413) 863-8955 • FAX: (413) 863-0126

April 6, 2020

Gill Selectboard:

On April 2, 2020 the Gill Fire Department Board of Engineers approved for appointment to the Gill Fire Department the following name(s).

Firefighter:

Junior Firefighter Jake Whitney

Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene M. Beaubien". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gene Beaubien

April 3, 2020

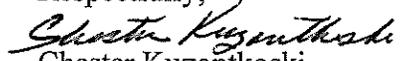
Dear Board of Selectmen,

In the near future, I have some family matters which will require my fullest attention. With that said, and after a great deal of thought, I will not be able to accept another appointment on the Memorial Committee or as the Town of Gill Veterans Grave Officer. I will, however, serve out my current terms until the end of this year June 30, 2020. I will be available for any questions or concerns from the Memorial Committee or any other Town Official if needed after that date as well.

I want to thank the Board for appointing me throughout the years. Your trust and faith in me to perform these duties in a respectful and responsible manner is greatly appreciated. I want to thank Ray Purington for all of your guidance and directives, making sure we were in compliance with the very important open meeting laws. Your professionalism is second to none and we here in Gill are lucky to have you as Town Administrator. Most importantly, I want to thank the Memorial Committee, Gary and Merri Bourbeau, Doug and Elaine Smith, and Tony Zager for being so easy to work with. These people made the Chair position simple. Once, at Town Hall, I overheard a Town Official say: "I wish every Committee were like the Memorial Committee." I took that one as a compliment !

In closing. I have been honored to serve the Town in this capacity. Memorial Day isn't a day of great celebrations. It is a day of remembrance and recognizing the sacrifices that were made in order to preserve what we have today. Those men and women who laid down their lives so we could live ours in freedom must never be forgotten. Our Veterans, many of whom have suffered beyond what we know, deserve the respect they have earned. Being deployed for months and even years at a time are difficult, to say the least. I know. The responsibility of defending our country can never be taken lightly, and those we have entrusted with this job should be recognized for it.

Respectfully,


Chester Kuzontkoski

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: cristin carpenter <kitc16@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Town of Gill Mass
Cc: Pam ShoemakerGHC; Lynn Tomb-GHC; trconncoast@yahoo.com; Gill Assessors; Bev DeMarsGHC
Subject: GHC request of MassDOT to remove sign from bridge
Attachments: TFG Bridge sign letter.docx

Hi Ray,

This letter is about a local issue we first discussed with a MassDOT representative when we were reviewing adjustments proposed for the intersection of Main Rd. and Route 2 to get ready for the repairs to the General Pierce Bridge.

Attached is the Historical Commission's letter which asks the Highway District in Northampton to take down the extra sign that reads "Gill-Montague Bridge" on the north end of the bridge between Gill and Turners Falls, to support the preservation of our historic Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

We hope the SelectBoard will weigh in, and if they would like, offer a letter of support.

Thanks for your help,

Kit Carpenter, Co-chair
Gill Historical Commission



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Peter Cavicchi, District Highway Director
MassDOT District 2
811 North King St.
Northampton, MA 01060

March 31, 2020

Dear Mr. Cavicchi,

The Gill Historical Commission has been referred to you by Jeffrey Shrimpton, Cultural Resources Supervisor for MassDOT in Boston. We are writing in regard to the signage on the historic bridge that crosses the Connecticut River between Turners Falls and Gill. The signage on both ends of the bridge gives its name, the Turners Falls – Gill Bridge, dedicated in September, 1938.

Several years ago, an extra sign that read “Gill-Montague Bridge” appeared on the Gill side of the bridge. Now there are two signs with different names on the north end of the bridge. The extra sign is inaccurate since it conflicts with the original name of the bridge. To preserve the historic integrity of this important bridge, we would like the extra sign to be taken down, without a cost to the town, and we would greatly appreciate your help.

Thank you for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,

Cristin L. Carpenter, Co-Chair
Gill Historical Commission
Town Hall
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

cc: Gill SelectBoard