

## **SELECTBOARD AGENDA**& MEETING NOTICE

#### Mon., February 12, 2024

\*\*\*Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing

(all other times are approximate)

Location: Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

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

#### **Old Business**

- o Complete Streets Prioritization Plan review & finalize list of prioritized projects
- o Review of Minutes: 8/29/22, 9/12/22, 10/11/22, 11/21/22, 12/5/22, 12/19/22, 1/30/23, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/28, 3/30, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/20, 7/3, 9/11, 9/25, 11/06, 11/27, 12/4, 1/2, 1/29

#### **New Business**

- o Fire Dep't. purchase orders
  - \$696.00 to Pete's Tire Barns for two tires for Rescue Truck
  - \$770.05 plus freight to Firematic Supply for (5) spectacle kits for air pack face pieces
- o Dept. of Fire Services \$10,500 award from FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program for handheld thermal imager
- Appointments
  - Jenna Marotte, 121 Hoe Shop Rd, to Conservation Commission through 6/30/2025
  - Lynn Stowe Tomb, 90 Boyle Rd, as Election Worker through 6/30/2024
  - Margaret Vidrine, 69 South Cross Rd, as Election Worker through 6/30/2024
- o Approval of In-Person Early Voting hours preceding March 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary election
- o Review & sign warrant for March 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary election
- o Review & sign Sewer Commitment #2024-002, \$50,083.09, bill date of 2/8/24
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- o Public Service Announcements, if any
- Warrants
   FY24 #16 Vendors (\$32,760.80) & Payroll (\$32,146.95) reviewed & signed on 01/29/24
   FY24 #17 review & sign

#### Adjournment

**Other Invitations/Meetings:** 

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 2/19		Presidents Day holiday	
Mon 2/26	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall
Tues 3/5	7AM-8PM	Presidential Primary Election	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Town Hall
Mon 3/11	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall



# Complete Streets Prioritization Plan Town of Gill Project Narratives

## PROJECT 1: MAIN ROAD PEDESTRIAN EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENTS FROM STOUGHTON PLACE TOWARDS ROUTE 2

#### Project Goal:

To create pedestrian infrastructure on Main Road from 12 Main Road (Stoughton Place Elderly Public Housing) to 23 French King Highway (The Mill gas station and convenience store) and other nearby amenities. There is currently no sidewalk connection between the Stoughton Place driveway and The Mill gas station and convenience store at 23 French King Highway. There are several businesses along and near this connection that include The Spirit Shoppe, Leaf Joy Dispensary, The Wagon Wheel Restaurant, Cielito Lindo food truck, and the Turners Falls – Gill Bridge to enter Turners Falls. This section of Main Road is paved with no shoulder. There is a culvert (drainage structure) within the right-of-way and would need reconstruction for a sidewalk to be built. This project will make it safer for pedestrians to walk on and cross Main Road to access these amenities.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Construct a sidewalk on the eastern side of Main Road from the intersection of the Stoughton Place entrance driveway to The Mill gas station and convenience store driveway entrance (approximately 550 ft.). The width of Main Road at the Stoughton Place driveway is 27.5 ft. The width of Main Road at 6 Main Road (The Spirit Shoppe) is 33.5 ft.

#### Project will include:

• Construct an approximately 550 linear foot 5 foot wide sidewalk;

#### Estimated cost:

• \$268,000

#### PROJECT 2: MAIN ROAD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS - DOWNTOWN GILL

#### Project Goal:

To create pedestrian infrastructure on Main Road from 326 Main Road (Gill Tavern), crossing River Road and a crosswalk across Main Road from the Library to the Town Common. There is currently no designated crossing infrastructure or markings between these three locations. This project will make it safer for pedestrians to cross Main Road and access these amenities.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Construct highly visible crosswalks in downtown Gill. One crosswalk will cross Main Road from the Library to the Town Common while the second will cross River Road from the Gill Tavern to the parking lot northeast for the Library. The crosswalk on Main Road will include push-button activated rectangular



rapid flashing beacons for increased visibility. Incorporate highly visible centerline pavement markers and intersection warning signs for improved driver visibility of pedestrians. Install gateway welcome sign on the northbound approach to the Town Center. The width of Main Road at crossing from Town Hall to the Gill Tavern is 22 ft. wide and paved.

#### Project will include:

- Install two crosswalks, approximately 22 ft. long and 5 ft. wide. Paint in the continental or ladder style;
- Install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at Main Road crosswalk;
- Use preformed retroreflective tape for crosswalk markings. This has been shown to have the longest lifespan and highest daytime and nighttime visibility; and
- Include lighting at the crosswalks where needed;
- Install recessed, reflective pavement markers to the centerline of Main Road from the Radar Speed Sign heading northbound to the Radar Speed Sign heading southbound;
- Install a larger Gateway sign for the Town on the northern side of Main Road.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$122,000

## PROJECT 3: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS MAIN ROAD AT NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON ATHLETIC FIELDS

#### Project Goal:

This project will implement safety improvements along Main Road at the location where Northfield Mount Hermon students cross to the school owned athletic fields. Heavy student foot traffic was observed at this crossing location during the field visit. The vehicular traffic was also dense with high speeds at this same time on this section of Main Road.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Improvements would include updating the crosswalk markings at the existing crosswalk, lighting improvements, and updated rapid flashing beacons. This project will make it safer for pedestrians crossing Main Road. The width of Main Road at this crosswalk is 22 ft. with the northbound and southbound shoulders being 2 ft. each, totaling the entire road width to 26 ft.

#### Project will include:

- Improving the existing crosswalk by using retroreflective tape for the markings. This has been shown to have the longest lifespan and highest daytime and nighttime visibility;
- Include lighting at the crosswalks where needed;
- Install new flashing beacon on both ends of the crosswalk;
- Replace flashing school crossing signs in advance of crosswalk in both directions (200 ft.).

#### Estimated cost:

• \$110,000



## PROJECT 4: WEST GILL ROAD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS – WEST GILL ROAD

#### Project Goal:

To improve access on West Gill Road for bicycles and pedestrians. West Gill Road is a primarily residential road, excluding the Oak Ridge Golf Course that connects Gill to Bernardston. The Franklin County Bikeway Greenfield – Montague Loop travels through the entirety of West Gill Road. The road is approximately 26 ft. wide throughout with no sidewalk or bicycle lane. The traffic was observed during the site visit traveling faster than the speed limit, which is 35 miles per hour.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Widening opportunities to create bike lanes, specifically from Hoe Shop Road to Main Road. This project will widen the paved roadway to 30-ft.width, narrow travel lanes to 10-ft.and create 5-ft.bicycle lanes. Narrowing the travel lane by adding bicycle lanes will slow vehicular traffic and also provide a space for bicycle travel.

#### Project will include:

- Full-depth roadway widening of +4 ft., including drainage structure adjustments as needed;
- Install Bike Lane signs (R3-17);
- Reduce the travel lane width to ten ft. with a one foot buffer;
- Install Franklin County Bikeway signs on the entirety of West Gill Road.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$3,500,000

## PROJECT 5: WEST GILL ROAD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS – OAK RIDGE DISC GOLF COURSE ON WEST GILL ROAD

#### Project Goal:

To improve pedestrian safety on West Gill Road where disc golf players are required to cross the road given that the course is laid out on both sides of West Gill Road. There are currently no crosswalks or signage to indicate that pedestrians cross the road to continue playing. This project will make it safer for pedestrians partaking in disc golf and alert motorists to their surroundings.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Implement marked crossings at the two locations where pedestrians playing disc golf cross the street as well a rapid flashing beacons that are push activated. The entire width of the road at each crossing location is 26 ft.

#### *Estimated cost:*

\$82,000



## PROJECT 6: TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS – MOUNT HERMON ROAD

#### Project Goal:

To improve pedestrian safety by calming traffic through new infrastructure on Mount Hermon Road. Mount Hermon Road is a paved road located on the Northfield Mount Hermon School in the northern section of town. This road has two entrances/exits, both leading to Main Road. Although Mount Hermon Road is a public road owned by the town of Gill, the facilities and grounds crew at the Northfield Mount Hermon School maintain the road throughout the entire year. In 2021 the Bolger Center for Early Education became newly managed by the Franklin County YMCA, this change in management allowed anyone from the public to send their children to the childcare facility, not just faculty and staff of Northfield Mount Hermon School. Traffic has increased on Mount Hermon Road since this change and although this traffic is concentrated to certain parts of the day, there are still pedestrians affected by it. Mount Hermon Road is heavily trafficked by students traveling to the sports facilities across from Main Road. Students are often observed walking in the middle of the road due to the lack of sidewalks. There are designated walking paths for students to walk on, but safe crosswalks and sidewalks are absent from Mount Hermon Road. Creating strategic pedestrian infrastructure will increase safety of drivers and pedestrians as well as calming traffic on Mount Hermon Road.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Create a sidewalk on the western side of Mount Hermon Road from Cutler Road to the southern entrance of Purple Road. Mt Hermon Road at Cutler Road is 22 ft. wide. A series of three raised crosswalks will be placed throughout this road, starting at Cutler Road and going south to the pedestrian path leading to Main Road. The existing crosswalk at the Purple Road pedestrian path will be replaced with a raised crosswalk. Mount Hermon Road at the existing crosswalk is 21.5 ft. wide. The final new raised crosswalk will be located just north of Purple Road to connect with the walking path leading to athletic fields east of Main Road. Along this work area (Cutler Road to the walking path south of Purple Road) street lighting will be increased.

#### Project will include:

- Construct 1,500 ft. of new sidewalk separated from the roadway with a curb ramp on both ends;
- Create 22 foot long, raised crosswalks at Cutler Road, Purple Road (northern end) and just north
  of Purple Road at the pedestrian walking path, to include warning signs and curb ramps;
- Reconstruct the existing 21 foot long crosswalk at the pedestrian path between the two Purple Road entrances;
- Pedestrian-level lighting along the length of the proposed sidewalk and at both ends of each crosswalk.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$890,000



## PROJECT 7: SPEED CONTROL AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS NEAR GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – BOYLE ROAD

#### Project Goal:

To make the area around the entrance/exit to Gill Elementary School safer for motorists and pedestrians by implementing speed control devices and/or markings. In its current state, this section of Boyle road is 25.5 ft. in width with the northbound lane measuring 13 ft. and the southbound lane measuring 12.5 ft. There are also no shoulder line markings but there are center line markings. The roadway is also in good condition having recently been resurfaced with a chip seal. By implementing speed controls and increasing access, the entrance/exit to Gill Elementary school will be safer for motorists and pedestrians who may choose to walk to and from school.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Posting speed limit signs on both the northbound and southbound lanes to alert motorists to their surroundings as well as potentially utilizing a speed feedback device. Pavement markings would also serve to better improve access to the entrance/exit of the school. Currently, very few people have been observed to walk to school given the perception that this roadway is unsafe for pedestrians. These safety improvements would make walking and biking to school safer and more accessible.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$29,000

## PROJECT 8: SIDEWALK CONNECTION FROM GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO THE SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY – BOYLE ROAD & MAIN ROAD

#### Project Goal:

To create a pedestrian friendly link between Gill Elementary School, located on Boyle Road, and the Slate Memorial Library, located on Main Road in Gill Center. This would help to promote walking to and from school and create a safe link between the two educational centers. It would also help promote the practice of implementing a "park and walk" program, where people could park in the center of Gill by the library and walk the rest of the way to school. The distance between the two locations is approximately 2/3 of a mile.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Construct a sidewalk that runs south from the Gill Elementary School along Boyle Road and then turns onto Main Road heading towards Gill Center, ending at the Slate Memorial Library. This would be an approximately 2/3 mile long sidewalk connection. This would not include constructing sidewalk on the existing bridge on Main Road south of Boyle Road; pedestrian accommodation on the bridge would be provided by warning signs and pavement markings.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$444,000



## PROJECT 9: SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION CONNECTIONG TO THE TURNERS FALLS-GILL BRIDGE — RIVERVIEW ROAD

Project Goal: To enhance pedestrian access and connectivity to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge from the Riverside neighborhood. The existing stretch of sidewalk is in disrepair and just ends without any type of curb ramp. By rehabbing and extending the existing sidewalk, pedestrians will be better able to safely access the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge which leads into the Village of Turners Falls. This project will benefit the residents of the Riverside Village and create a key link to the commercial and entertainment center of Turners Falls.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Reconstruct the existing sidewalk along Riverview Road and extended it down to the intersection with Walnut Street. The existing 4-ft. wide asphalt sidewalk would be replaced with a 6-ft. wide cement concrete sidewalk to accommodate more users and meet current standards.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$112,000

#### PROJECT 10: RIVER ROAD INTERSECTION RECONSTRUCTION - RIVER ROAD

#### Project Goal:

Create a safer and shorter crossing for pedestrians in Gill Center, and improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicycles by alerting motorists that they are entering the center of town and to reduce speeds. River Road approaches Main Street from at a steep grade, resulting in very limited sight distance for motorists at the intersection. River Road is +65 ft. wide at the intersection, resulting in a long distance for pedestrians to cross, with limited visibility of approaching vehicles due to the steep approach grade.

#### Recommended Improvements:

This project would reconstruct River Road at the intersection with Main Street to reduce the approach grade as much as possible and to narrow the width of River Road at the intersection.

#### Estimated cost:

• \$1,500,000



## PROJECT 11: PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT BLAKE TOWN FOREST TRAILHEAD-HOE SHOP ROAD

#### Project Goal:

To improve pedestrian safety at the Blake Town Forest parking area/trail head which crosses Hoe Shop Road. Currently, other than a Kiosk in the Parking area, there are no signs or markings to indicate that there is a trail crossing at this location. This section of Hoe Shop road is unpaved and has a road width of approximately 24 ft. The width of the visible travel lane in this area is approximately 16.5 ft. This project will increase the safety of pedestrians as they cross the roadway as well as increase the visibility and overall awareness of the Blake Town Forest parking area located at 76 Hoe Shop Road.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Given that this section of Hoe Shop Road is unpaved, there are not any options for ground level markings. However, signage that warns oncoming motorists for the potential of pedestrians crossing the street would be a huge improvement over the current conditions. This project would include push-button activated, solar powered rectangular rapid flashing beacons and pedestrian level lighting on either side of the road.

#### *Estimated cost:*

• \$71,000

## PROJECT 12: CROSSWALK ACROSS MAIN ROAD – INTERSECTION WITH ROUTE 2 TRAFFIC SIGNAL

#### Project Goal:

This project will implement a marked crosswalk across Main Road at the intersection with Route 2 with added pedestrian phase to the existing traffic signal. Currently there is only a marked crossing across Route 2. This will increase safety and allow pedestrians to access the various businesses in the area. This location in under MassDOT jurisdiction.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Crosswalk across Main Road between The Mill gas station + convenience store and Leaf Joy. Added pedestrian phase to existing traffic signal.

#### Estimated cost:

• N/A (to be implemented by MassDOT)



## PROJECT 13: SIDEWALK FOR RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD – ROUTE 2 FROM MAIN ROAD TO MEADOW STREET

#### Project Goal:

This project will implement a sidewalk along Route 2 from Meadow Street to Main Road. This will increase pedestrian safety and allow residents of the Riverside village to safely access amenities at the Main Road/Route 2 Intersection. It will also connect to sidewalks leading across the Gill-Montague Bridge into the village of Turners Falls.

#### Recommended Improvements:

Construct sidewalk along Route 2 from Meadow Street to Main Road.

#### Estimated cost:

• N/A (to be implemented by MassDOT)

#### TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



### SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES January 29, 2024

<u>Called to Order:</u> The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room at Gill Town Hall.

<u>Members Present:</u> Randy Crochier (Chair) and Greg Snedeker <u>Members Absent</u>: Charles Garbiel <u>Others Present:</u> Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Kate Savage, Tim Batchelder, Pam Lester, Bill Tomb, Diane Sumrall, Laurie Scarborough, Audrey Boraski, Jack Carolan, Bob Perry

<u>FY24 Tax Rate Classification Hearing with Board of Assessors:</u> At 5:35 PM the Selectboard and Board of Assessors held the tax rate classification hearing for FY24. Assessors Bill Tomb and Pam Lester, as well as Diane Sumrall, Assistant to the Board of Assessors, were present for the Board of Assessors.

Assessors' Chair Bill Tomb led the discussion on the FY24 tax rate using a handout prepared by Sumrall. He reviewed the calculations for the levy limit and maximum levy, and noted the excess levy capacity (difference between the maximum levy and the actual levy) is \$207,768.02. Tomb also reported the Assessors recommend a residential factor of 1, which means a single tax rate, along with no discount for Open Space (the Assessors' land data doesn't have a formal category for "Open Space"), no Residential Exemption (a tax shifting methodology used by communities with large numbers of seasonal and vacation homes), and no Small Commercial Exemption (used in conjunction with a split tax rate).

Based upon appropriations by Town Meeting and projected revenues for FY24, there will be a tax levy of \$3,240,860.98 against total property values of \$209,357,945. The resulting tax rate is expected to be \$15.48 per thousand dollars of valuation, which is a \$1.43 decrease from FY23. Because property values increased from last year, the estimated taxes for the average single family home will be \$4,413, which is up \$169 from the previous year. Overall, the assessed value of residential properties increased by 14% over last year.

There was \$2,121,858 in new taxable property, resulting in a \$35,881 increase ("New Growth") to the tax levy limit. The LA-5 excess capacity for FY24 is \$207,768.08, which means Town Meeting could authorize that much additional spending from taxation without exceeding the limits imposed by Proposition 2 ½.

Kit Carpenter and Sherry Heldt joined the meeting at 5:45 PM. Chris Redmond joined the meeting at 5:50 PM.

During the discussion it was noted Gill's assessed values are still perceived to be somewhat lower than current real estate market conditions, but this could work to our advantage if the market suddenly cools off. Tomb also stated the Board of Assessors want to explore a new title, job description, and pay grade for Sumrall, with something more commensurate with her responsibilities, training, and certifications. The Board will work with the Personnel Committee on this change.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Randy, to accept the Assessors' recommendations and adopt a residential factor of 1, which will result in a single tax rate. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Greg made a motion to adopt an Open Space discount, Residential Exemption, and Small Commercial Exemption. The motion was defeated by a vote of 0 in favor and 2 opposed. The Selectboard thanked the Board of Assessors and Sumrall for the excellent work they do for the Town. The Assessors adjourned their meeting and left at 5:53 PM. Sumrall left the meeting at 5:53 PM.

Efficiency & Regionalization Grant Application: The Selectboard reviewed a draft of the Efficiency & Regionalization grant application prepared by Mike Edwards of the Collins Center. The application requests \$46,000 to allow the Town to engage a consultant to study the feasibility of sharing police services as part of an existing regional agreement or by forming a new partnership with another area law enforcement entity. Police Chief Chris Redmond weighed in on the draft, stating it "looks good." Greg made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the application. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Ray will submit the application ahead of the February 9<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Redmond reported the Town has received the "notice to proceed" with the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant that will provide funds to purchase radio repeaters for two of Gill's cruisers. Redmond left the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan: Laurie Scarborough, Audrey Boraski, and Jack Carolan, all from the Planning Department of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), met with the Selectboard to review a draft of the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan they have prepared on behalf of the Town. Randy disclosed he is an employee of the FRCOG, but does not work in the Planning Department and does not receive any funding or compensation from the Planning Department or the Complete Streets Program.

Scarborough summarized the Complete Streets Funding Program, which is a program of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) with the overall goal of providing safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities. The program has three tiers. In Tier 1 the municipality demonstrates its commitment to Complete Streets principles through the passing of a Complete Streets policy and by having one municipal employee attend a Complete Streets training session. In Tier 2 a municipality examines its Complete Street needs, safety or network gaps, and develops a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan that aligns with local and regional planning efforts. Once the plan is approved by MassDOT, the municipality can enter Tier 3 and projects on the plan can receive funding for implementation and construction. A municipality can receive up to \$500,000 in funding in a 5-year period. Design and engineering costs are not eligible for Tier 3 funding, however, Chapter 90 funds can generally be used for those expenses.

Scarborough explained that in developing the plan the FRCOG team met twice with Purington and Highway Superintendent John Miner, conducted field work at the various project locations, posted an online survey to gather input from Gill residents, and published an article about the project in the Gill Newsletter. In reviewing the handout with narratives for thirteen potential Complete Streets projects Scarborough noted the ranking of each project is important, and the project ranked first should be the Town's top priority and be the first to be implemented.

It was noted several of the suggested projects have estimated costs well in excess of the \$500,000 provided by the Complete Streets Program. Other sources of funds include Chapter 90 funds, other grants, donations from abutting landowners, and the Transportation Improvement Program, and could be pooled to allow these high-cost projects to proceed.

Several of the potential projects include construction of sidewalks, and it was noted there is currently only one roadside sidewalk in Gill, along Route 2 in front of The Mill gas station. By an agreement with the Town, the owners of The Mill have responsibility for maintaining the sidewalk and keeping it clear of snow and ice. If new sidewalks are constructed as part of Complete Streets projects, the Town will need to adopt a sidewalk bylaw or otherwise address how sidewalks will be kept open and safe in the winter.

The Selectboard thanked the FRCOG team for its work on the plan. The topic will be on the agenda for the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which time the project rankings will be finalized and the plan approved. Scarborough, Boraski, and Carolan left the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Bequest from Estate of Renee Jenkins: The Town was notified by the attorney for the Estate of Renee A. Jenkins that in her will Jenkins left her home and land at 19 Boyle Road to the Town. Jenkins died in September 2023 at the age of 95 and was a lifelong resident of the Town of Gill. Her home, which was originally built in 1825, was the Center School for Gill and is included in the Gill Center Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Kit Carpenter and Bob Perry, members of the Historic Commission, and Sherry Heldt, a volunteer for the Commission, participated in the discussion with the Selectboard.

Carpenter noted there are many "enormous" questions about the bequest, the property, and possible uses by the Town, and it is important to collectively tease out the best answers. She also noted Historic Commissions are mandated by the State to preserve and promote historic sites and traditions, and to help people understand and appreciate "that which came before."

Among the key answers needed are: learning more from Jenkins' heirs about the intent of the give (i.e. could the Town sell the property if a determination was made it was not needed); identifying possible uses for the property by the Town; and current condition of the property and any needed upkeep, maintenance, or improvements. It was suggested there may be an assortment of local experts on buildings and historic preservation who could assist the Town with understanding the potential costs and benefits of taking ownership of the property. Ray will reach out to the heirs to begin the conversation and to explore ways in which the Town can gain access to conduct and initial assessment of the property.

<u>Notable Passings:</u> Randy noted Grayce Perry, Gill's oldest resident, holder of the Bicentennial Cane, and mother of Bob Perry, passed away earlier this month at the age of 98. Also, Bob Manners, a longtime Shelburne Selectman, firefighter, and EMT passed away this month. Carpenter, Perry, and Heldt left the meeting at 7:15 PM.

<u>Sewer Rates:</u> The Selectboard reviewed an updated handout for a proposed new sewer rate for the Riverside Sewer System. After the January 2<sup>nd</sup> rate hearing Ray adjusted the four scenarios based on feedback received at the meeting, including the suggestion of lowering the amount to be collected as a contingency for unpaid sewer bills. Tonight's handout presented possible rate increases of 4.5%, 6.5%, 8.5%, and 10%. While there was some feeling a higher rate increase may be justified, the 6.5% increase was decided to be a reasonable compromise for this year. Greg made a motion, seconded by Randy, to adopt a 6.5% increase on the sewer rate, to \$0.3491 per cubic foot, effective with the bills for October – December 2023. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

The Selectboard tabled the idea of repurposing \$25,000 of ARPA funds allocated for replacing the flow meter at the sewer pump station. The idea was raised as part of the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Review of Minutes: No minutes were available for review.

<u>Fire Department Purchase Orders:</u> By consensus the Selectboard approved two purchase orders for the Fire Department: \$1,824 to Firematic Supply for three sections of 6" diameter drafting hose and \$1,470 to 413 Upfitting for six Whelen 600EZ scene lights.

<u>Firefighter Appointment:</u> Greg made a motion, seconded by Randy, to appoint Nikolas Martin as a Firefighter through June 30, 2024. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

FY23 Outstanding Sewer Accounts to be Liened on FY24 Real Estate Bills: The Selectboard reviewed a list of 10 sewer accounts with outstanding amounts from FY23 to be placed as liens on the FY24 real estate bills. The list total is \$13,932.26 in sewer charges, \$180.00 in demand fees, and \$1,773.25 in interest. Ray explained if payments are received prior to the real estate bills being generated, the payments will be applied and those liens will not be placed. He also noted the actual interest amount that will be liened may increase depending on which day the Tax Collector places the liens. Greg made a motion, seconded by Randy, to place the sewer liens per the supplied list. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

<u>Riverside Municipal Building:</u> Randy noted receipt of an email last week from the Four Winds School advising the School is experiencing financial difficulty due to low enrollment, and has given itself until mid-March to decide if it will be open for the 2024-2025 school year. Four Winds School rents two classrooms at the Town's Riverside Municipal Building. There was consensus the building, its needs, and its uses should remain on the Selectboard's radar.

FRCOG 2024 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Project Requests: As an employee of the FRCOG and the manager of employees whose positions could be partially funded by DLTA funds, Randy recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Greg and Ray reviewed the 2024 Local Technical Assistance Request Form, which was distributed to the Selectboard, departments and committees earlier in the month. The following projects and topics resonated as being of "Top 3" importance to the Town: FirstLight's FERC relicensing; municipal service sharing – police; and updates to certain sections of Gill's zoning bylaws. Ray will complete the form and submit it ahead of the January 31st deadline.

Savage left the meeting at 7:37 PM.

<u>Warrant:</u> The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2024 warrant # 16 with totals of \$32,760.80 for vendors and \$32,146.95 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 02/12/2024

Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk

3



Remit To:

Main Office 275 East Main Street Orange, MA 01364 (978) 544-8811 www.petestire.com

#### MASSACHUSETTS

ORANGE (978) 544-8811 GARDNER (978) 632-7697 NORTHAMPTON (413) 586-8815 SHREWSBURY (508) 754-9876 WOBURN (781) 721-9070 RANDOLPH (781) 986-8473 SPRINGFIELD (413) 736-8700 WESTBOROUGH (508) 871-1150

6762/01

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

AMHERST (603) 672-8973 W. CHESTERFIELD (603) 614-8066 MANCHESTER (603) 669-5432

#### CONNECTICUT

SOUTH WINDSOR (860) 291-9615 WATERBURY (203) 754-2156 DANBURY (203) 743-7648 FRANKLIN (860) 642-7577

#### VERMONT

WHITE RIVER JCT (802) 291-9216 RUTLAND (802) 747-0752 MONTPELIER (802) 839-1924 NEW HAVEN (802) 453-2106 MIDDLEBURY (802) 388-4053 WILLISTON (802) 651-0841

#### RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE (401) 521-2240

0185391

SHIP TO: GILL FIRE DEPT.

QUOTE 02/08/24

ORANGE MA 01364

SOLD TO: GILL FIRE DEPT.

196 A MAIN ROAD GILL MA 01354

MAKE-MODEL | PLATE # | MILEAGE | TELEPHONE | RTE | SLM | SHIP VIA | ORDER# | PAGE | | (413)863-2324 | | 1 |(413)863-8955 | 0 | 10 N/A 740078 | INVOICE # | PREV INVOICE # | TERMS | | | NET 10TH 02/08/24 10:04:12 STOCK# | SIZE | DESCRIPTION ORDER SHIP PREV U-PRICE | T | FET | EXTENSION FIRESTONE TRANSFORCE AT2 LRG 2 2 SPIN BALANCE/MT/DIS & BOLT ON 2 2 .00 225/70R19.5 FIRESTONE TRANSFORCE AT2 LRG 240.00 00 HMDSPINBO 90.00 00 .00 180.00 LARGE TRUCK RECYCLING FEE 2 2 HSCRAP 18.00 00 .00 36.00

PRINTED NAME:

SIGNATURE:

PARTS	-	LABOR	TAX % TAXABLE	TMA E	TAX	FET	MISC AMT	I	INVOICE '	TOTAL
480.00	1	180.00		1		ľ	1	NO T	A N	INVOIC
	- i	36.00	1	1		FET EXEMPT	1	1	696.	00

## FIREMATIC SUPPLY CO., INC.

23 Birch Street, Milford, Mass. 01757 978-490-9902

SGarland@firematic.com WebSite: www.firematic.com



DATE PAGE 2/07/2024 1

QUOTE NUMBER QT114803

3/8/2024

Quoted DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM KIMBALL

TO GILL FIRE DEPT 196 MAIN ROAD GILL, MA 01354 Ship GILL FIRE DEPT To 196 MAIN ROAD GILL, MA 01354

	CUSTOMER NO. 3049	CONTRACT NO.	PHONE NO. (413)863-8955	SALESPERSON SCOTT GARLAND	CUSTOMER PO. NO.
L					

LINE NO.	ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY ORDERED	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
1	MSA10144230	SPECTACLE KIT FOR G1 FACEPIECE	5	154.01	770.05
	FREIGHT IN	FREIGHT FROM MANUFACTURER TO BE DETERMINED	1	0.00	0.00

Comments Amount 770.05
By: SCOTT GARLAND

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133

STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133 (617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 6, 2024

Chief Gene Beaubien Town of Gill 196A Main Road Gill, MA 01354

Dear Chief Beaubien,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) has awarded the Town of Gill Fire Department \$10,500.00 in State Fiscal Year 2024 funding for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.

With each new challenge, the fire service in Massachusetts demonstrates its ability to adapt, overcome, and continue providing the excellent level of services that the citizens of the Commonwealth have come to expect. Please know how thankful I am for this, and how grateful I am to be able to provide your department with this important equipment.

The contract, terms and conditions, and other award documents for this program will be provided to you by DFS. Please contact Tim Moore at DFS with any questions about this award at 978-567-3721 or <a href="mailto:Timothy.Moore@mass.gov">Timothy.Moore@mass.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

**GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY** 

4. T. Heal

LT. GOVERNOR KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL

Fin Drivel

# In-Person Early Voting Schedule for Presidential Primary

being held on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

All early voting will take place upstairs at the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road

Saturday February 24, 2024 9AM-11AM and 3PM-5PM Sunday February 25, 2024 No Early Voting in person

Monday February 26, 2024 1PM-3PM

Tuesday February 27, 2024 1PM-3PM

Wednesday February 28, 2024 1PM-3PM

Thursday February 29, 2024 3PM-6PM