



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

Mon., February 26, 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, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

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)

Old Business

- Update – Jenkins' bequest of 19 Boyle Road
- 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, 2/12

New Business

- Election Requests from Town Clerk
 - Vote to opt out of vote-by-mail for May 20, 2024 local (town) election
 - Vote to allow hand counting of ballots at May 20, 2024 local (town) election
- Highway Dep't. – Roadwork projects for Spring 2024
 - 4 days of crack sealing (various roads) – budget (\$ 23,018) & Chapter 90 (\$30,044)
 - Mountain Road blacktop 0.7 miles – Chapter 90 (\$128,538,696)
 - Cove View Lane paving 440 feet – Chapter 90 (\$14,581)
 - Center Road shim/overlay 880 feet – Chapter 90 (\$27,687)
 - Chapter 90 balance of \$205,861 after doing these projects
- Mileage Reimbursement for Town-related travel – currently \$0.50/mile vs IRS 2024 rate of \$0.67
- Resignation – Pam Shoemaker from Historical Commission effective 2/15/24
- Personnel Committee recommendation of clarification to Personnel Policy, Section IX Compensation Wage Plan, paragraphs (f) Starting Rates and (g) Rate of Pay for Promotion or Demotion
- Six Town Regionalization Planning Board – request for recommendation of Gill representatives to serve on District Regional Agreement subcommittee
- Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District – 2-year extension of Inter-Municipal Agreement for membership in the District
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
 - Sewer Commitment - \$768.02 for bill date of 2/23/24 (sale of 26 French King Hwy)
- Public Service Announcements, if any
- Warrants
 - FY24 #17 Vendors (\$81,704.16) & Payroll (\$34,351.24) – reviewed & signed on 02/12/24
 - FY24 #18 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues 3/5	7AM-8PM	Presidential Primary Election	2 nd floor, Town Hall
Mon 3/11	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall
Mon 3/25	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



Town Clerk

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

RE: Opt Out of Vote-by-Mail for Local Election May 20, 2024

I would like to request that the Selectboard take a vote to Opt Out of the Vote-by Mail option for the Local Election, May 20th, 2024.

Upon your signing below, I will notify the State within the 45 day timetable that we will not be using the Vote-by Mail option for the May 20, 2024 Election

If you agree, please sign below and I will send this documentation to the Secretary of State.

Members of the Selectboard, Town of Gill, February 26, 2024

_____ Randy P. Crochier, Chair

_____ Gregory M. Snedeker

_____ Charles J. Garbiel, II

Thank you,

Doreen J. Stevens
Doreen J. Stevens, Town Clerk

TOWN OF GILL
MASSACHUSETTS



Town Clerk

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

RE: Use of Hand Counting of Ballots for Local Election

I would like to request that the Selectboard take a vote to allow hand counting of ballots for the Local Election May 20th, 2024.

Upon your signing below, I will notify the State within the 60 day timetable that we will not be using the ImageCast tabulator for our Local Election.

If you agree, please sign below and I will send this documentation to the Secretary of State.

Members of the Selectboard, Town of Gill, February 26, 2024

_____ Randy P. Crochier, Chair

_____ Gregory M. Snedeker

_____ Charles J. Garbiel, II

Thank you,

Doreen J. Stevens
Doreen J. Stevens, Town Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org
highway@gillmass.org

TO: Town of Gill Selectboard
CC: Ray Purington, Town of Gill Town Administrator
FROM: John Miner, Town of Gill Highway Superintendent
DATE: February 12, 2024
REASON: Spring FY2024 Projects Request

Spring FY2024 Town of Gill Highway Department Proposed Projects and Figures

I am looking for authorization to move forward with 3 projects to be completed in the spring of 2024.

The first project would consist of 4 days of crack sealing various roadways (see sheet). The town approved \$23,018.00 to be added to the highway department budget in FY24 to be used for 2 days of crack sealing. This would allow us to use these funds for 2 of the 4 days of crack sealing. The next 2 days would be funded using Chapter 90.

The second project would consist of continuing the leveling Course of black top on Mountain Road. In FY22 we were able to pave .6 miles. This paving started at the intersection of Main Road and Mountain Road and ended at Deer Run Lane. I would like to continue where we left off at Deer Run Lane and pave .7 miles ending at House 97 (Stone's Driveway).

The third project would consist of leveling and paving Cove View Lane. Cove View Lane is currently a oil and stone roadway. In 2022 the Highway Department tried to oil and stone the roadway using Chapter 90 Funds but it was found out that Cove View Lane was not a town accepted roadway. Chapter 90 Funding could not be used. At town meeting in May of 2022 the town voted to accept the roadway. Because of the delay and last few years of weather conditions in the winter the current oil and stone on the roadway is not in good enough condition to re-apply oil and stone. The oil and stone is in need of a treatment before the roadway needs to be ground and re-done. By paving over the current oil and stone this will create more of a sturdy base for the roadway.

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The fourth project would consist of leveling and paving a section of Center Road (880'). Center Road is currently a oil and stone roadway. There is a section that is in need of a treatment before the roadway needs to be ground and re-done. By paving over the current oil and stone this will save the roadway before more expensive repairs are needed.

Current Available Chapter 90 Funds including FY24 Fair Share Supplemental	\$406,711.36
Crack Sealing 2 days using Chapter 90 Funding using a 10% contingency (\$4823.80)	\$30,043.80
Mountain Road Blacktop Leveling using 20% contingency (\$21423.05)	\$128,538.30
Cove View Lane Leveling and Paving using a 20% contingency (\$2430.10)	\$14,580.60
Center Road Leveling and Paving using a 20% contingency (\$4614.50)	\$27,687.00
Total Amount Left in Chapter 90	\$205,861.66

This is Using FCROG FY2024 Bid Prices.

Prepared by - John Miner
Approved / Denied by Selectboard on -

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Spring FY2024 Town of Gill Various Roadway Crack Sealing Roadways To Be Crack Sealed

Road Name	Start	Finish	Length
Atherton Road	West Gill Road	End of Roadway	0.4 miles
Franklin Road	West Gill Road	End of Roadway	0.9 miles
Green Hill Road	South Cross Road	End of Town Owned Portion	0.2 miles
Mountain Road	Main Road South	Power Lines	0.9 miles
West Gill Road	Gill/Bernardston Town Line	Hole #1 green at golf course	1.5 miles
Dole Road	West Gill Road	Town Line	0.8 miles
Total Length			4.7 miles

Purpose and Need for Project:

This Project is a proactive measure that greatly reduces potholes and other future problems. It is a critical line of defense against water infiltration into the roadway. It lowers the overall cost of pavement preservation over time.

Project will consist of:

Thorough cleaning of the cracked pavement using compressed air to dry the surface. After preparing the cracked area, a PCRM material (PG 64-28 binder & 3 performance additives – fiber, polymer & crumb rubber) will be applied in and over the cracks. This prevents moisture and incompressible materials from entering the cracks and making them worse.

Estimated to take 4 days.	Gallons a Day (est.)	850	Price Per Gallon \$13.67	Total Price	\$46,478.00
Police Detail 2 Days for Crack Filling	2 Officers Hours Needed	32	Price Per Hour \$55.00	Total Price	\$1,760.00
Sub Total					\$48,238.00
10% Contingency					\$4,823.80

Project Total Estimate \$53,061.80

Project would be completed using \$23,018.00 from FY24 Highway Budget and the remaining balance from Chapter 90 Funds.

Price is using FCROG FY2024 Bid Prices.

Prepared by - John Miner

Approved / Denied by Selectboard on -

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Spring of 2024

Town of Gill

Mountain Road Blacktop Leveling Project

Purpose and Need for Project: The oil and stone section to be done of Mountain Road is starting to unravel and fall apart. By doing this project now it will save the roadway before a full depth reclamation would be needed costing a substantial amount of money. Using blacktop to level the roadway will add a sturdy base to the existing oil and stone.

Project will consist of: Sweeping the roadway and patching all potholes before project begins.
Applying a tack coat of liquid asphalt to the existing oil and stone roadway. (This will bond the new black top with the oil and stone.)
Then a 2 inch course of blacktop will be applied over the existing oil and stone roadway.

Project Location - Mountain Road - Starting at Deer Run Lane and going South (.7 miles). Ending at the high tension lines.

Measurements and Figures

Road Length (ft.)	3696	Road Width (ft.)	25		Price Per	Total
2" Leveling Course of Blacktop			Tons Needed	1155	Price Per Ton \$89.25	\$103,083.75
Tack Coat			Gallons Needed	513	Price Per Gallon \$5.50	\$2,821.50
Police Detail			2 Officers Hours Needed	8	Price Per Hour \$55.00	\$880.00
Police Detail Over Time			2 Officers Hours Needed	2	Overtime \$82.50	\$330.00
					Sub Total	\$107,115.25
					20% Contingency	\$21,423.05
Total Project Cost						\$128,538.30

Project would be completed using Chapter 90 Funds

This is Using FCROG FY2024 Bid Prices.

Prepared by - John Miner

Approved / Denied by Selectboard on -

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Spring of 2024
Town of Gill
Cove View Lane Paving

Purpose and Need for Project: Cove View Lane is currently a oil and stone roadway. In 2022 the Highway Department tried to oil and stone the roadway using Chapter 90 Funds but it was found out that Cove View Lane was not a town accepted roadway. Chapter 90 Funding could not be used. At town meeting in May of 2022 the town voted to accept the roadway. Because of the delay and last few years of weather conditions in the winter the current oil and stone on the roadway is not in good enough condition to re-apply oil and stone. The oil and stone is in need of a treatment before the roadway needs to be ground and re-done. By paving over the current oil and stone this will create more of a sturdy base for the roadway.

Project will consist of: Sweeping the roadway.

Applying a tack coat of liquid asphalt to the existing oil and stone roadway. (This will bond the new black top with the oil and stone.)

The roadway will be paved with a leveling course of blacktop (+/-1") and then repaved with a top coat of blacktop (+/-2")

Project Location - Cove View Lane - Starting at Route 2 and paving 440 feet.

Measurements and Figures

Road Length	440'	Road Width	15'		Price Per	Total
3" Leveling Course of Blacktop			Tons Needed	124	Price Per Ton \$89.25	\$11,067.00
Tack Coat			Gallons Needed	37	Price Per Gallon \$5.50	\$203.50
Police Detail			2 Officers Hours Needed	8	Price Per Hour \$55.00	\$880.00
Police Detail Over Time			2 Officers Hours Needed		Overtime \$82.50	\$0.00
					Sub Total	\$12,150.50
					20% Contingency	\$2,430.10
Total Project Cost						\$14,580.60

Project would be completed using Chapter 90 Funds

This is Using FCROG FY2024 Bid Prices.

Prepared by - John Miner

Approved / Denied by Selectboard on -

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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highway@gillmass.org

Spring of 2024

Town of Gill

Center Road Shim/Overlay Paving

Purpose and Need for Project: Center Road is currently a oil and stone roadway. There is a section that is in need of a treatment before the roadway needs to be ground and re-done. By paving over the current oil and stone this will prolong more expensive repairs and create more of a sturdy base for the roadway. In the future this section of road will be oil and stoned.

Project will consist of: Sweeping the roadway.
Applying a tack coat of liquid asphalt to the existing oil and stone roadway. (This will bond the new black top with the oil and stone.)
The roadway will be paved with a leveling course of blacktop (+/-1") and then repaved with a top coat of blacktop (+/-1")

Project Location - Center Road - Starting at House #52 (Chabot) and paving 880 feet and ending at pole #11/12 (catch basin at bottom of the hill coming from Hickory Hill Kennel) .

Measurements and Figures

Road Length	880'	Road Width	22'		Price Per	Total	
2" Leveling Course of Blacktop			Tons Needed	242	Price Per Ton	\$89.25	\$21,598.50
Tack Coat			Gallons Needed	108	Price Per Gallon	\$5.50	\$594.00
Police Detail			2 Officers Hours Needed	8	Price Per Hour	\$55.00	\$880.00
Police Detail Over Time			2 Officers Hours Needed		Overtime	\$82.50	\$0.00
					Sub Total		\$23,072.50
					20% Contingency		\$4,614.50
Total Project Cost							\$27,687.00

Project would be completed using Chapter 90 Funds

This is Using FCROG FY2024 Bid Prices.

Prepared by - John Miner

Approved / Denied by Selectboard on -

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 11:43 AM
To: 'cristin carpenter'
Subject: RE: Message from Pam

Hi Kit,

No, we don't need the formality of letterhead for this. It's sad news, but I understand the reasons.

Please pass along my thanks to Pam, personally and on the behalf of the Town. Teacher, writer, historian, friend, and so much more to so many more. Pam, you will be missed.

My records show that Pam was appointed to the Historical Commission in October 1998. As far as I know, her service has been continuous, and more than 25 years is quite the accomplishment. It is also quite the gift of time, leadership, and knowledge, and the Town and its residents are privileged and grateful to have received such a gift. The accomplishments truly have been many, and the history of Gill is more informed because of Pam's untiring work. Take care, my friend.

Ray

From: cristin carpenter [mailto:kitc16@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 11:09 AM
To: Town of Gill Mass <administrator@gillmass.org>
Subject: Message from Pam

Hi Ray,
Pam has been writing a message to you and the Selectboard, and has asked me to send it to you all:

"To the Gill Selectboard:

I'm writing to inform you that I will no longer be able to serve the Town of Gill.
I am resigning from the Gill Historical Commission because of medical issues.
I have enjoyed the challenges and collegiality of the work, and I'm proud of what the Commission has done for the town.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela L. Shoemaker"

Ray,
I sent Pam's letter to the GHC members and volunteers yesterday. It was much like this one.
If you would like to have this on GHC letterhead for the Selectboard records, I'm fine to submit that for her.

Take care,
Kit

Revisions to IX(f) and IX(g) recommended by Personnel Committee on 2/21/24

Current wording of Section IX:

IX. COMPENSATION WAGE PLAN - See Attachment A (refers to the "Wage Scale" chart)

- (a) Classification Plan -- The Personnel Committee is responsible for the preparing and presenting to the Board of Selectmen, a position classification plan including a written definition for each position in the Town services which describes the duties, authority, and responsibilities characteristic of the position.
- (b) Administration -- Each classified position is placed in a pay grade with those positions which are sufficiently similar with respect to difficulty, responsibility and character of work as to require the same amount of experience and training for satisfactory performance and pay within the established pay range.
- (c) Position Description -- A position description is a written outline of responsibilities for each job in the classification plan. The position description will be standard for classifying individual positions and for determining when reclassification is warranted. The statement of the position descriptions are descriptive and not restrictive, and shall be reviewed annually to note any significant changes which may have taken place during the year.
- (d) Reclassification -- Reclassification of positions will occur when the duties of a position merit transfer to another pay grade reflecting its duties, authority, and responsibility.
- (e) Pay Plan -- The pay plan consists of pay grades directly related to the classification levels. Each pay grade shall have established minimum, midpoint, and maximum pay rates. No employee shall receive pay at any rate other than that rate which is within the pay range established for the classification level of her/his position, unless the Personnel Committee has first been notified, and is given fourteen (14) days to make its recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. The Personnel Committee shall recommend to the Board of Selectmen, changes in employee compensation resulting from such personnel actions as reclassifications, merit pay increases, promotions, demotions, and transfers because of abolishment, modification, or establishment of classes within the approved budget. Employees currently receiving a wage rate over the maximum of the recommended wage range will not have their wage rate reduced as a result of the classification study.
- (f) Starting Rates -- An employee appointed to a position should normally be compensated at the minimum of the pay range. Subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, appointment at a wage rate above the minimum may be made based upon exceptional qualifications of the applicant or by a lack of qualified applicants available at the minimum rate.
- (g) Rate of Pay for Promotion or Demotion -- When a Regular Employee is promoted from one grade to another he/she shall maintain their years of service.
- (h) Pay for Temporary Assignments Outside Her/his Classification -- When an employee is temporarily assigned to a position in a class with a higher pay range for forty (40) or more consecutive work hours, he or she shall be granted a pay increase equal to the rate for the next classification level at the same step for the duration of the temporary assignment.
- (j) Call-back Pay -- Any Regular, Full-Time Employee called back to work after the end of a work day shall be paid for a minimum of three hours at one and one-half times the employee's base pay rate.

Proposed wording of paragraphs (f) and (g): (changes are **bold underlined**)

- (f) Starting Rates -- An employee appointed to a position, **whether as a new hire, promotion, or lateral transfer**, should normally be compensated at the minimum of the pay range **for that position**. Subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, appointment at a wage rate above the minimum may be made based upon exceptional qualifications of the applicant, **years of service by the employee with the Town**, or by a lack of qualified applicants available at the minimum rate.
- (g) Rate of Pay for Promotion or Demotion -- When a Regular Employee is promoted **or demoted** from one grade to another **the employee** shall maintain their years of service **with respect to vacation accrual, longevity, and similar benefits**.

To: Selectboards, Fincoms and Town Administrators/Coordinators
From: Alan Genovese, Chair, Six Regionalization Planning Board
Greg Snedeker, Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer
Cc: Planning Board Members
Date: February 11, 2024
Regarding: Next Step in the Planning Board Process

We want to begin by recognizing each of you for your support and foresight in exploring the possibility of creating a new Regional School District. Because of the pandemic and other factors it has been a longer process than expected. On January 3rd the Planning Board voted to recommend creating a new regional district agreement for the Towns to consider in the Spring of 2025. We need your help in developing this governing document by having representatives serve on a Planning Board District Regional Agreement Subcommittee (DRAS).

In an effort to keep this subcommittee manageable, the Planning Board will appoint no more than 3 of its members to serve with two representatives from each town. **We are asking for the Selectboards to solicit and recommend individuals who wish to work on this Subcommittee.** The Planning Board will then be required to officially appoint these members.

These subcommittee meetings will be held remotely. If an in-person meeting is needed, it would be held in one of our towns with the subcommittee deciding on its location. It is our expectation that a proposed District Regional Agreement will be completed by February 2025.

Basically, we expect much of the “heavy lifting” to be done by the consultant(s), with the inclusion of ideas, suggestions, and consensus from conversations coming from DRAS. The Planning Board will review/deliberate/vote on the recommendations of the DRAS when necessary and eventually vote on a final proposed District Regional Agreement. The consultant(s) will also be required to include legal review, and the school committees will be encouraged to do the same. The consultants will also be required to keep the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the loop to be sure issues are resolved to their satisfaction.

It is expected that the consultant will draft a document identifying the common areas in the existing agreements (PVRSD and GMRSD) and suggest language for the various alternatives permissible by regulations and state law. The consultant will also review the proposed Regional District Agreement that PVRSD has been working on since the HEART Committee’s proposed Regional Agreement.

On our behalf, the Gill-Montague Regional School District put out a price quote for a Public School Regionalization Planning Consultant to work with the DRAS with a due date of February 22, 2024. **The Planning Board has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, February 29 (a leap year, how apropos) and, if plans go accordingly, will award a consultant’s contract and appoint members.** (if possible)

Please forward the names of individuals interested in serving to Greg Snedeker gsnedeker@gmail.com, cc Alan Genovese at supergee275@gmail.com, and include the individual's contact information for the purpose of correspondence and meeting invitations.

Informational Note: Dorinda Bell-Upp and Greg Snedeker, with the help of a web designer, are in the process of planning and creating a new website for the STRPB. This will be better organized, easier to navigate, and condense/summarize the information on our current site to make it easier to access pertinent documents in the months ahead. Our goal is to keep the public informed.

Thank you in advance for helping us with this important work.



Department of Veteran Services
294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Christopher Demars, Director
Laura Thorne, Assistant
Stacey Geneczko, Deputy Director
Jeffrey Cochran, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

February 5, 2024

Member Towns

*Ashfield
Bernardston
Buckland
Charlemont
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Hawley
Heath
Leverett
Leyden
Monroe
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Plainfield
Rowe
Shelburne
Shutesbury
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately*

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

Dear Select board,

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District requested a three year approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on January 3, 2022. The Commonwealth issued a two year approval starting July 1, 2022 and ending on July 1, 2024. The District will be processing the request to the Executive Office of Veteran Services to extend the District for two more years.

Individual member towns must now vote through their respective select boards to continue on as members of the district for the next two years.

All terms of the original inter-municipal remain the same with Greenfield paying 56% of the district budget and the remaining 44% being assessed to the other member towns. Only the total population has been adjusted.

Please review the enclosed agreement and sign by your town's respective signature line. We ask that you vote and return the agreement to our office no later than April 1, 2024. Towns not wishing to continue membership must do so by April 1, 2024 so district assessments may be adjusted. Towns wishing to withdraw from the district must also present a plan for providing veterans' services in accordance with M.G.L. Ch 115 to the state no later than April 1, 2024.

We, of course, hope you will chose to remain a member of our district. Should you have any questions or require my attendance at a select board meeting please let me know.

Respectfully,

Chris Demars
Director



Virginia Desorgher
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Christopher Demars, Director

294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301

Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401

Christopher.Demars@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

District Composition:

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District (the District) is comprised of one city, 25 Franklin County towns, and one Hampshire County town with a total district population of 63,999 (2022 census). (See Appendix A) Ref: M.G.L. c. 115, §§ 2, 10, and 14; 1972 Mass. Acts c. 471, §§ 1-3 *et seq.*

Reasonable Geographical Proximity of Municipalities Within the District:

As a whole, all municipalities within the district adjoin one another. The district is divided basically along geographical lines with an Eastern County and Western County divided by the I-91/Connecticut River corridor. Ref: M.G.L. c. 115, §§ 2, 10, and 14; 1972 Mass. Acts c. 471, §§ 1-3, *et seq.*; 108 CMR 12.00. 14.

Personnel Staffing for the District:

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District employs three veterans' services officers and an adequate number of clerical support staff. Specifically, the district employs one (1) full-time director of the veterans' services district, one (1) full-time deputy director, one (1) full-time veterans' agent, and one (1) full-time clerical support worker. The district's staffing reflects the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services guidelines for the minimum personnel staffing requirements for veterans' services districts.

Ref: M.G.L. c. 4, § 7(43); M.G.L. c. 115, §§ 1, 3, 10, 11, and 14; 1972 Mass. Acts c. 471, §§ 1-3, *et seq.*; 108 CMR 2.02; 108 CMR 12.00.

Business Hours and Locations within the District:

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District's main office is located at the Greenfield Veterans' Resource and Referral Center, 294 Main Street, Greenfield, separate and apart from other city offices, and maintains regular business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., five days per week (Monday through Friday). The main office is staffed by the district's one full-time clerical support member and the District Director. The District will maintain satellite offices, with space provided by member communities at no cost to the district, with the VSOs setting schedules as needed in their respective eastern and western municipalities.

Ref: M.G.L. c. 115, §§ 10, 11, and 14; 1972 Mass. Acts c. 471, §§ 1-3, *et seq.*; 108 CMR 12.00.

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services Inter-Municipal Agreement

Pursuant to c.40, sec 4A, this Agreement, approved by the Mayor and Greenfield City Council and the Select Boards of the participating Towns, is hereby entered into and is effective from this first day of July 2024, by and between the City of Greenfield and the participating towns. This agreement contractually enables the Director of Greenfield's Veterans' Resource and Referral Center, and such other Veterans' Service Officers as shall be on the staff of such office, to perform the duties of such office for all of the towns which are party to this agreement. The terms of this contract shall be for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026, namely July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

1. Such duties will be performed in the Greenfield office of the City's Veterans' Services Office during regularly scheduled business hours or in the member towns during weekly office hours there or during normal office hours.
2. It is understood and agreed that the distribution of benefits payable to Veterans in the member towns under the provisions of Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws shall be paid by the Treasurer of the member Town in which that Veteran resides or by such method that the Commonwealth sees fit as determined by the Massachusetts Legislature or the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services.
3. It is understood and agreed that the reimbursement of Veterans' benefits from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be credited to the member Town in which that Veteran resides.
4. All District employees shall be employees of the City of Greenfield. The City of Greenfield shall pay all reasonable and customary salaries and District operating expenses with assessments collected from all District member towns. The Director of the District will supervise all staff in their duties as related to the office in the various towns. These duties shall include the application of M.G.L. Ch 115, filing for federal benefits, assistance with housing, employment, health insurance, and burial benefits. The Director may assign other duties as required by M.G.L. Ch 115 in the performance of the office to include work schedules and appointments as needed.
5. A Member Board shall be created with one primary representative and one alternate representative from each member community. Each community shall have only one vote in matters that come before the Board. The Board shall meet as needed but no less than twice a year and shall address all issues related to the implementation of this District.
6. The Greenfield office shall work with local Veterans Councils from the member communities to assist the Councils in coordinating all ceremonies and parades in all member communities, so long as it does not interfere with the VSO's primary duties.
7. The Greenfield office shall comply with the DVS Directive, dated June 8, 2009, to utilize a paperless web based system which will allow for the submission of member communities' benefit reimbursement requests to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Examples of such technology include but are not limited to internet access, fax access, photocopier access and office space.
8. For the term of this agreement, annually by February 1st, each member town will provide a quantity of cemetery flags needed to the district. The District will order the flags, bill the towns, and process reimbursement for each member town.
9. Assessments to the District shall be made payable to the City of Greenfield and mailed to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District c/o Town Hall, 14 Court Square, Greenfield, MA 01301 no later than July 15th of each year.

10. Any budget surplus at the end of each fiscal year will be refunded to each member town according to the EQV/Population model used in the initial assessment. Each fiscal year the District will present a new assessment schedule for the member towns based on any budget increases/decreases incurred or expected based on normal costs of doing business such as indirect employee costs and negotiated union contracts.
11. A member municipality may withdraw from a veterans' services district by vote of its legislative body (selectmen or city council) at the end of a fiscal year if such withdrawal is voted on not less than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the municipality's fiscal year and notice of such vote is filed with the other municipalities comprising the district. The parties shall equitably adjust any payments made or due relating to the unexpired portion of the Term following such termination.
12. If towns opt to join or leave the District, it is understood that the annual assessments of the other member towns will change.

The new Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District will base assessments on 50% Equalized Valuation (EQV) and 50% US Census population. EQV will use the most recent "Final" figures as published by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and population will use figures from the most recent decennial census conducted by the US Census Bureau. Submitted assessments are based on the cities/towns listed below (see Appendix B for assessments based on EQV and Population).

In the fall of every year of this agreement, the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District will provide assessments to the member communities based on the 50% EQV-50% Population model. This will provide member communities time to consider membership in the district for the upcoming fiscal year within the guidelines in accordance with MGL Ch 115 District formation. Towns not wishing to join must notify MA DVS and submit their own plan for compliance of their municipality with MGL Ch 115. The remaining district assessments would be recalculated and resubmitted to the remaining communities for approval. **Fiscal Year 2016 serves as the base year in establishing the district budget. The City of Greenfield will assume 56% of the district budget. The balance of the budget will be assessed to all remaining signatory communities listed below.**

All remaining costs associated with the operation of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District shall be paid by the City of Greenfield.

This agreement may be renewed on a tri-annual basis by mutual written agreement of all the parties.

City of Greenfield:

Mayor

date

Town of Ashfield:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Bernardston:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Buckland:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Charlemont:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Colrain:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Conway:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Deerfield:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Erving:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Gill:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Hawley:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Heath:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Leverett:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Leyden:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Monroe:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Montague:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of New Salem:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Northfield:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Plainfield:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Rowe:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Shelburne:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Shutesbury:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Sunderland:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Warwick:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Wendell:

Select Board Chair

date

Town of Whately:

Select Board Chair

date



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
600 WASHINGTON STREET, 7TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02111
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CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary, EOHHS

CHERYL LUSSIER POPPE
Secretary, DVS

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District
Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor
14 Court Square
Greenfield, MA. 01301

January 7, 2022

Dear Mayor Wedegartner:

On January 3, 2022, DVS received Upper Pioneer Valley re-application for continued operation of a veterans' services district for the City of Greenfield and the Towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Plainfield, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendall, and Whatley. DVS has completed its sufficiency review of the re-application. Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District hereby is granted continued approval for a period of two years commencing on July 1, 2022, to operate under the terms presented in its re-application, and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and directives of DVS.

This approval is effective for two years and shall expire on July 1, 2024. If you wish to continue to operate the district after this expiration date, then you should submit your re-application for continued veterans' services district status not later than 30 days prior to expiration date.

Congratulations, again! We look forward to continuing to work with you and your team to provide the nation's best veterans' benefits and services to Massachusetts veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Evan Makrinikolas

Evan Makrinikolas
Compliance Director
Department of Veterans Services

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



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 February 23, 2024.

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 February 23, 2024, 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 Seven Hundred Sixty Eight and 02/100 Dollars (\$768.02).

Given under our hands the 26th day of February, 2024.

Randy P. Crochier, Sr.

Gregory M. Snedeker

Charles J. Garbiel II

Board of Sewer Commissioners of the Town of Gill