



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

January 26, 2026

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

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

Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

5:15 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)

- Warrants
FY26 #15 – Vendors (\$59,726.89) & Payroll (\$37,678.71) – reviewed/signed on 01/12/26
FY26 #16 – review & sign

5:30 PM FY26 Tax Rate Classification Hearing with Board of Assessors

- Discussion and votes include residential factor (single vs split tax rate), open space discount, residential exemption, small commercial exemption, and excess levy capacity.

	FY 2026 (this year)	FY 2025 (last year)
Tax Rate	\$14.91 (anticipated)	\$14.66/thousand of value
Excess Levy Capacity	\$14,356.71	\$121,424.19
Average Assessed Value of Single-Family Home	\$337,267	\$320,271
Average Tax Bill for Single-Family Home	\$5,028.65	\$4,695.17

Old Business

- Review of Minutes: 2025: 3/24, 4/7, 4/22, 5/5, 5/20, 6/2, 6/16, 6/30, 8/11, 8/18, 9/8, 9/17, 10/6, 10/16, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/15, 12/29; 2026: 1/12
- FRCOG 2026 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Project Request – prioritize Gill's list

New Business

- Energy Commission – list of possible projects for 2026
- Resignation – David Conway from Sewer Commission
- Appointment – Zachary Ozdarski as a Firefighter through 6/30/26 (was a Junior Firefighter)
- Six Town Regionalization Planning Board – request for Selectboard's preference – town to vote on one 6-town regional agreement OR vote on two regional agreements, 5 town & 6 town
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan – Community Input Session – food provided
 - Excellent turnout (27 residents!) at first session on Jan 20th
 - #2 Wed, Feb 11th 5:30 PM @ Town Hall – identify & prioritize actions that reduce vulnerabilities and reinforce strengths
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 1/26	6:30 PM	Selectboard/FinCom/Elem Roof mtg	Town Hall

Thur 2/5	5:30 PM	GMRSD FY27 budget presentation to Gill & Montague SB & FinCom	Gill Town Hall
Mon 2/9	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Mon 2/16		Presidents' Day holiday	
Mon 2/23	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

FY2026 Classification Hearing

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total Taxable Valuation...Real Estate	227,733,522	217,759,896
Personal Property	<u>12,797,550</u>	<u>12,915,330</u>
Total of Personal Property and Real Estate	<u>240,531,072</u>	<u>230,675,226</u>

The Assessors attest that on Thursday, January 22, 2025 notice was printed on the Town's web page at gillmass.org that this Classification Hearing would be held at the Gill Selectboard Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 26, 2026.

$$\text{Tax Rate} = \frac{\text{Actual Levy} \times 1000}{\text{Total of PP and RE Valuation*}}$$

* PP - Personal Property
RE - Real Estate

Previous Levy Limit	=	\$3,495,643
Amended 2025 Growth	=	\$0
Proposition 2 1/2 Increase Limit	=	\$87,391
Override	=	\$0
New Growth	=	<u>\$8,899</u>
New Levy Limit	=	\$3,591,933
Debt Exclusions	+	<u>\$8,742</u>
Maximum Allowable Levy	=	\$3,600,675
(LA-5) Excess Levy	-	<u>\$14,357</u>
A = Actual Levy	=	<u>\$3,586,318</u>

Actual Levy = \$3,586,318

$$\frac{\$3,586,318}{\$240,531,072} \times \$1,000 = \$14.91 \quad \text{Estimated Tax Rate using Actual Levy}$$

The LA-5 excess capacity for the current fiscal year is calculated as: \$ 14,356.71
The LA-5 excess capacity for the prior fiscal year is calculated as: \$ 121,424.19

Board of Assessors recommends voting residential factor of 1 which results in a single tax rate.

Motion for vote:

Adopt residential factor of 1, which results in a single tax rate.

Motion for a Negative vote on adoption of

Open Space Discount

Explanation - - - - No tax class of "Open Space"

Residential Exemption

Explanation - - - - Used in resort communities with large Second Home Population

Small Commercial Exemption

Explanation - - - - Shifts some commercial tax burden from smaller businesses to larger businesses (10 or fewer)

Total New Growth Valuation = \$607,035 Tax Levy Growth = \$8,899 / \$14.66 (FY2025 Tax Rate)

Class 101 Total Value \$153,119,300 = \$337,267 FY2025 Average 101 Value
Total Number of 101's (Single Family Homes) 454 Up 5.8% from Last Year

\$337,267 - \$320,271 = \$16,996
(FY2025 Avg. 101 Value)

16,996 / 337,267 = 5.04%

Estimated Average 101 Actual Tax

$\frac{\$337,267}{\$1,000} \times \$14.91 = \$5,029$

5,029 - 4,695 = 333
(FY2025 Avg. Actual Tax)

Increase of \$333 over FY2025 (Estimated Average Actual Tax)

LA13 Tax Base Levy Growth

Retain documentation for 5 years in case of DOR audit - Fiscal Year 2026

Property Class	(A) All Prior Year Abatement No.	(B) All Prior Year Abatement Values	(C) New Growth Valuation	(D) PY Tax Rate	(E) Tax Levy Growth
RESIDENTIAL					
SINGLE FAMILY (101)	0	0	255,075		
CONDOMINIUM (102)	0	0	0		
TWO & THREE FAMILY (104 & 105)	0	0	1,100		
MULTI - FAMILY (111-125)	0	0	0		
VACANT LAND (130-132 & 106)	0	0	5,100		
ALL OTHERS (103, 109, 012-018)	0	0	15,440		
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL	0	0	276,715	14.66	4,057
OPEN SPACE	0	0	0		
OPEN SPACE - CHAPTER 61, 61A, 61B	0	0	0		
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	0	0	0	0.00	0
COMMERCIAL	0	0	7,100		
COMMERCIAL - CHAPTER 61, 61A, 61B	0	0	11,800		
TOTAL COMMERCIAL	0	0	18,900	14.66	277
INDUSTRIAL	0	0	0	14.66	0
PERSONAL PROPERTY	0	0	311,420	14.66	4,565
TOTAL REAL & PERSONAL	0	0	607,035		8,899

Community Comments:

Signatures
Board of Assessors
Diane Sumrall, Assistant to the Assessors , Gill , assessors@gillmass.org 413-863-0138 10/22/2025 10:32 AM
Pamela J. Lester, Assessor , Gill , assessors@gillmass.org 413-863-0138 10/22/2025 11:17 AM

LA13 Tax Base Levy Growth

Retain documentation for 5 years in case of DOR audit - Fiscal Year 2026

Signatures
William Tomb, Assessor , Gill , assessors@gillmass.org 413-863-0138 10/22/2025 11:34 AM

Documents
No documents have been uploaded.

LA4 Comparison Report - Fiscal Year 2026

Small PP Exemption:	0	Certification Year:	2022
Billing Cycle:	Permanent-SemiAnnually	BLA Advisor:	Paula King
Chapter 653:	No		

Property Type	Description	FY 2025 Parcel Count		FY 2025 Assessed Value	FY 2026 Parcel Count		FY 2026 Assessed Value	Parcel Difference	Parcel % Difference	Assessed Value Difference	Assessed Value % Difference
101	Single Family	452		144,762,500	454		153,119,300	2	0.4%	8,356,800	5.8%
102	Condominiums	16		4,543,300	16		4,381,900	0		-161,400	-3.6%
MISC 103,109	Miscellaneous Residential	22		4,173,600	22		4,468,500	0		294,900	7.1%
104	Two - Family	17		5,241,400	17		5,403,000	0		161,600	3.1%
105	Three - Family	9		3,098,100	9		3,418,400	0		320,300	10.3%
111-125	Apartment	2		700,000	2		757,200	0		57,200	8.2%
130-32,106	Vacant / Accessory Land	106		4,833,400	103		4,736,600	-3	-2.8%	-96,800	-2.0%
200-231	Open Space	0		0	0		0	0		0	
300-393	Commercial	38		10,311,400	37		10,324,100	-1	-2.6%	12,700	0.1%
400-442	Industrial	34		1,459,250	34		1,465,250	0		6,000	0.4%
450-452	Industrial Power Plant	2		16,604,587	2		16,604,587	0		0	
CH 61 LAND	Forest	19	26	219,530	20	26	226,233	1	2.2%	6,703	3.1%
CH 61A LAND	Agriculture	20	24	891,163	19	26	1,141,066	1	2.3%	249,903	28.0%
CH 61B LAND	Recreational	2	8	279,266	2	8	298,796	0		19,530	7.0%
012-043	Multi-use - Residential	16		17,972,535	15		18,628,320	-1	-6.3%	655,785	3.6%
012-043	Multi-use - Open Space	0		0	0		0	0		0	
012-043	Multi-use - Commercial	0		2,604,965	0		2,689,570	0		84,605	3.2%
012-043	Multi-use - Industrial	0		64,900	0		70,700	0		5,800	8.9%
501	Individuals / Partnerships / Associations / Trusts / LLC	26		665,010	26		639,870	0		-25,140	-3.8%
502	Corporations	10		1,472,990	11		1,453,680	1	10.0%	-19,310	-1.3%
503	Manufacturing	0		0	0		0	0		0	
504	Public Utilities	2		8,675,000	2		8,658,740	0		-16,260	-0.2%
505	Centrally Valued Telephone	1		463,700	1		457,200	0		-6,500	-1.4%

LA4 Comparison Report - Fiscal Year 2026

Property Type	Description	FY 2025 Parcel Count	FY 2025 Assessed Value	FY 2026 Parcel Count	FY 2026 Assessed Value	Parcel Difference	Parcel % Difference	Assessed Value Difference	Assessed Value % Difference
506	Centrally Valued Pipelines	0	0	0	0	0		0	
508	Wireless Telephone	2	327,270	2	276,700	0		-50,570	-15.5%
550-552	Electric Generating Plant	3	1,311,360	3	1,311,360	0		0	
EXEMPT VALUE	Exempt Property	58	101,564,200	58	108,417,400	0		6,853,200	6.7%

LA4 Comparison Report - Fiscal Year 2026

Small PP Exemption:	0	Certification Year:	2022
Billing Cycle:	Permanent-SemiAnnually	BLA Advisor:	Paula King
Chapter 653:	No		

Property Type	Description	FY 2025 Parcel Count	FY 2025 Assessed Value	FY 2026 Final Parcel Count	FY 2026 Assessed Value	Parcel Difference	Parcel % Difference	Assessed Value Difference	Assessed Value % Difference
Total Class 1	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL	640	185,324,835	638	194,913,220	-2	-0.3%	9,588,385	5.2%
Total Class 2	TOTAL OPEN SPACE	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Total Class 3	TOTAL COMMERCIAL	137	14,306,324	138	14,679,765	1	0.7%	373,441	2.6%
Total Class 4	TOTAL INDUSTRIAL	36	18,128,737	36	18,140,537	0		11,800	0.1%
Total Class 5	TOTAL PERSONAL PROPERTY	44	12,915,330	45	12,797,550	1	2.3%	-117,780	-0.9%
Total Taxable	TOTAL REAL & PERSONAL	857	230,675,226	857	240,531,072	0		9,855,846	4.3%

LA4 Reviewer:	Paula King	Approval Date:	10/20/2025
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Edits :

Comments
The LA-3, LA-4 and LA-13 were reviewed in conjunction with one another. Patriot Properties was contracted for the valuation of real property. RRC was contracted for the valuation of the personal property including the two 504 utilities. Building cost and depreciation tables were market adjusted. The FY26 FVAC tables were installed. The total value of real & personal property increased by \$9.8 million representing an increase of 4.3%. Residential class increased \$9.5 million, the 101 class contributes \$8.3 million. Personal Property decreased by .9%, this was primarily due to depreciation. Residential growth was \$276,715. This was well below the three-year average. Most of the growth came from existing 101s with growth such as decks, sheds, bathrooms and small additions. Over the past few years there have been many new single-family homes included in the growth. Personal property new growth of \$607,035 is also lower than the three-year average due to the fact there had been larger growth among the utility accounts the past three years.

Documents
No documents have been uploaded.

CLASSIFICATION TAX ALLOCATION
Fiscal Year 2026

TAX RATE OPTIONS

Resid Factor Selected	1.000000	
Open Space Discount %	0.000000	

LA5 Certification

Public Hearing Held on: Date 01/26/2026 Time 5:30 PM at Gill Town Hall Adopted on Date 01/26/2026

ENTER EXEMPTION OPTIONS

If adopting a residential or senior means tested exemption, the Exemption Calculation Worksheet must be uploaded to submit the LA - 5.

RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION OPTIONS

Res Exemption%(max35)	0.0000	(You must notify the DLS Databank if the percent has changed - Databank@dor.state.ma.us)
Total Res Parcel Count	0	
No. Eligible Res Parcels	0.000000	
Total Res Value Exempted	0	Total 101 Only Res Value Exempted 0

SENIOR MEANS TESTED EXEMPTION OPTIONS

No. Eligible Res Parcels	0	(You must notify the DLS Databank if the percent has changed - Databank@dor.state.ma.us)
Total Res Value Exempted	0	Total 101 Only Res Value Exempted 0

COMBINED IMPACT OF SENIOR MEANS TESTED AND RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTIONS

Net Value of 101 Parcels After Combined Exemptions	153,119,300
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SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION

Com Exemp % (max 10%)	0.0000	(You must notify the DLS Databank if the percent has changed - Databank@dor.state.ma.us)
No. Eligible Com Parcels	0	
Total Value of Eligible Parcel	0	
Tax Rate Override: Water Sewer Debt Shift	No	

Signatures

No signatures to display.

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

CLASSIFICATION TAX ALLOCATION

Fiscal Year 2026

	LA4 VALUES		FFCV PERCENTS		SHIFT OPTIONS
Residential	194,913,220	Residential	81.034528	Min Res Factor at 150%	88.297907
Open Space	0	Open Space	0.000000	Min Res Factor at 175%	0.000000
Commercial	14,679,765	Commercial	6.103064	Chapter 3	0.000000
Industrial	18,140,537	Industrial	7.541868	Lowest Historical Res%	58.256000
Pers Prop	12,797,550	Pers Prop	5.320539	Prior FY LA5 Res Shift%	80.340200
Total	240,531,072	Total %	100.000000	Lowest Res Factor	88.297907
			INPUT OPTIONS		OPEN SPACE DISCOUNT
Levy (Recap Page1 Ic)	3,586,318	Resid Factor Selected	1.000000	Open Space Discount %	0.000000
		Com/Ind/PP Shift	1.000000	Open Space Factor	1.000000
		Single Tax Rate	14.91		
	SHIFT PERCENTS		TAX RATES		
Residential %	81.034528	Residential	14.91		
Open Space %	0.000000	Open Space	0.00		
Commercial %	6.103064	Commercial	14.91		
Industrial %	7.541868	Industrial	14.91		
Pers Prop %	5.320539	Pers Prop	14.91		
Total %	100.000000				

RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION OPTIONS & CALCULATIONS (Upload Exemption Calculation Worksheet)

Total Residential Value	194,913,220	/ Total Res Parcel Count	0	= Average Residential Value	0
Avg Residential Value	0	X Res Exemption%(max35)	0.0000	= Residential Exemption	0
No. Eligible Res Parcels	0.000000	Total Res Value Exempted	0		
Total Residential Value	194,913,220	- Total Res Value Exempted	0	= Tot Res Value After Exemption	0
Total Residential Value	194,913,220	/ # Eligible Res Parcels	0.000000	= Approx. Break-Even Value	0

SENIOR MEANS TESTED EXEMPTION OPTIONS & CALCULATION (Upload Exemption Calculation Worksheet)

No. Eligible Res Parcels	0	Total Res Value Exempted	0		
Total Residential Value	194,913,220	- Total Res Value Exempted	0	= Total Res Val After Exemption	194,913,220

COMBINED IMPACT OF SENIOR MEANS TESTED AND RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTIONS

Residential Exemption	0	+ Senior Means Tested Exemption	0	= Combined Res Value Exempted	0
Total Residential Value	194,913,220	- Combined Res Value Exempted	0	= Total Res Val After Exemptions	194,913,220
Net Value of 101 Parcels After Combined Exemptions		153,119,300			

SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION OPTIONS & CALCULATION

CLASSIFICATION TAX ALLOCATION

Fiscal Year 2026

No. Eligible Com Parcels	0				
Com Exemp % (max 10%)	0.0000	X Total Value of Eligible Parcel	0	= Total Com Value Exempted	0
Tot Com & Indus Value	32,820,302	- Total Com Value Exempted	0	= Com & Ind Val after Exemption	32,820,302

LA5 Certification

Public Hearing Held on: Date 01/26/2026 Time 5:30 PM at Gill Town Hall Adopted on Date 01/26/2026

The LA-5 excess capacity for the current fiscal year is calculated as 14,356.71

The LA-5 excess capacity for the prior fiscal year is calculated as 121,424.19

If adopting a residential or senior means tested exemption, the Exemption Calculation Worksheet must be uploaded to submit the LA - 5.

Signatures

No signatures to display.

Documents

No documents have been uploaded.

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION
Fiscal Year 2026

I. TAX RATE SUMMARY

Ia. Total amount to be raised (from page 2, IIe)	\$ 5,173,538.29
Ib. Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from page 2, IIIe)	1,587,220.00
Ic. Tax Levy (Ia minus Ib)	\$ 3,586,318.29
Id. Distribution of Tax Rates and levies	

CLASS	(b) Levy percentage (from LA5)	(c) Ic above times each percent in col (b)	(d) Valuation by class (from LA-5)	(e) Tax Rates (c) / (d) x 1000	(f) Levy by class (d) x (e) / 1000
Residential	81.034528	2,906,156.12	194,913,220.00	14.91	2,906,156.11
Net of Exempt					
Open Space	0.000000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Commercial	6.103064	218,875.30	14,679,765.00	14.91	218,875.30
Net of Exempt					
Industrial	7.541868	270,475.41	18,140,537.00	14.91	270,475.41
SUBTOTAL	94.679461		227,733,522.00		3,395,506.82
Personal	5.320539	190,811.47	12,797,550.00	14.91	190,811.47
TOTAL	100.000000		240,531,072.00		3,586,318.29

MUST EQUAL 1C

Signatures
No signatures to display.

Documents
No documents have been uploaded.

Do Not Write Below This Line --- For Department of Revenue Use Only

Reviewed By: David Guzman
Date:
Approved:
Director of Accounts:

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION**Fiscal Year 2026****II. Amounts to be raised**

Ila. Appropriations (col.(b) through col.(g) from page 4)		5,153,436.00
Ilb. Other amounts to be raised		
1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	0.00	
2. Debt and interest charges not included on page 4	0.00	
3. Final Awards	0.00	
4. Retained Earnings Deficit	0.00	
5. Total cherry sheet offsets (see cherry sheet 1-ER)	6,375.00	
6. Revenue deficits	0.00	
7. Offset receipts deficits Ch. 44, Sec. 53E	0.00	
8. CPA other unappropriated/unreserved	0.00	
9. Snow and ice deficit Ch. 44, Sec. 31D	0.00	
10. Other :	0.00	
TOTAL Ilb (Total lines 1 through 10)		6,375.00
Ilc. State and county cherry sheet charges (C.S. 1-EC)		7,363.00
Ild. Allowance for abatements and exemptions (overlay)		6,364.29
Ile. Total amount to be raised (Total Ila through Ild)		5,173,538.29

III. Estimated receipts and other revenue sources

IIIa. Estimated receipts - State		
1. Cherry sheet estimated receipts (C.S. 1-ER Total)	362,926.00	
2. Massachusetts school building authority payments	0.00	
TOTAL IIIa		362,926.00
IIIb. Estimated receipts - Local		
1. Local receipts not allocated (page 3, col (b) Line 24)	309,700.00	
2. Offset Receipts (Schedule A-1)	0.00	
3. Enterprise Funds (Schedule A-2)	0.00	
4. Community Preservation Funds (See Schedule A-4)	0.00	
TOTAL IIIb		309,700.00
IIIc. Revenue sources appropriated for particular purposes		
1. Free cash (page 4, col (c))	587,094.00	
2. Other available funds (page 4, col (d))	247,500.00	
TOTAL IIIc		834,594.00
IIId. Other revenue sources appropriated specifically to reduce the tax rate		
1a. Free cash..appropriated on or before June 30, 2025	80,000.00	
1b. Free cash..appropriated on or after July 1, 2025	0.00	

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION
Fiscal Year 2026

2.	Municipal light surplus	0.00	
3.	Other source :	0.00	
	TOTAL III d		80,000.00
III e.	Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources		1,587,220.00
	(Total III a through III d)		
IV.	Summary of total amount to be raised and total receipts from all sources		
a.	Total amount to be raised (from II e)		5,173,538.29
b.	Total estimated receipts and other revenue sources (from III e)	1,587,220.00	
c.	Total real and personal property tax levy (from I c)	3,586,318.29	
d.	Total receipts from all sources (total IV b plus IV c)		5,173,538.29

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION**Fiscal Year 2026**

LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED *

		Receipt Type Description	(a) Actual Receipts Fiscal 2025	(b) Estimated Receipts Fiscal 2026	Percentage Change
==>	1.	MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	354,568.00	184,000.00	-48.11
	2.	OTHER EXCISE			
==>		a.Meals	22,916.00	11,500.00	-49.82
==>		b.Room	4,931.00	500.00	-89.86
==>		c.Other	82,922.00	0.00	-100.00
==>		d.Cannabis	28,057.00	0.00	-100.00
==>	3.	PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON TAXES AND EXCISES	20,670.00	10,000.00	-51.62
	4.	PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES			
==>		a.Solar Payment in Lieu of Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>		b.All Other Payment in Lieu of Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00
	5.	CHARGES FOR SERVICES - WATER	0.00	0.00	0.00
	6.	CHARGES FOR SERVICES - SEWER	0.00	35,000.00	100.00
	7.	CHARGES FOR SERVICES - HOSPITAL	0.00	0.00	0.00
	8.	CHARGES FOR SERVICES - SOLID WASTE FEES	0.00	41,000.00	100.00
	9.	OTHER CHARGES FOR SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	10.	FEES			
		a.Cannabis Impact Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00
		b.Community Impact Fee Short Term Rentals	0.00	0.00	0.00
		c.Other Fees	0.00	8,000.00	100.00
	11.	RENTALS	400.00	0.00	-100.00
	12.	DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - SCHOOLS	0.00	0.00	0.00
	13.	DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - LIBRARIES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	14.	DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - CEMETERIES	0.00	0.00	0.00
	15.	DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - RECREATION	0.00	0.00	0.00
	16.	OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE	0.00	0.00	0.00
	17.	LICENSES AND PERMITS			
		a.Building Permits	0.00	0.00	0.00
		b.Other licenses and permits	5,190.00	3,700.00	-28.71
	18.	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	19.	FINES AND FORFEITS	0.00	1,000.00	100.00
==>	20.	INVESTMENT INCOME	0.00	15,000.00	100.00
==>	21.	MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00
==>	22.	MISCELLANEOUS RECURRING	0.00	0.00	0.00

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION
Fiscal Year 2026

		Receipt Type Description	(a) Actual Receipts Fiscal 2025	(b) Estimated Receipts Fiscal 2026	Percentage Change
	23.	MISCELLANEOUS NON-RECURRING	0.00	0.00	0.00
	24.	Totals	519,654.00	309,700.00	-40.40

Signatures
No signatures to display.

Documents
No documents have been uploaded.

* Do not include receipts in columns (a) or (b) that were voted by the City / Town / District Council or Town Meeting as offset receipts on Schedule A-1, enterprise funds on Schedule A-2, or departmental revolving funds per Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2. The Recap Page 3 Support form must be submitted to support increases / decreases of estimated receipts to actual receipts.
==> The Recap Page 3 Support form must be submitted to support increases/ decreases of FY 2026 estimated receipts to FY 2025 estimated receipts to be used in calculating the Municipal Revenue Growth Factor (MRGF). The Recap Page 3 Support form must be submitted to list each receipt type included in rows 22 and 23, Miscellaneous Recurring and Non-Recurring.

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION
Fiscal Year 2026

APPROPRIATIONS										AUTHORIZATIONS	
										MEMO ONLY	
City/Town Council or Town Meeting Dates	FY*	(a) Total Appropriations Of Each Meeting	(b) ** From Raise and Appropriate	(c) From Free Cash (See B-1)	(d) From Other Available Funds (See B-2)	(e) From Offset Receipts (See A-1)	(f) From Enterprise Funds (See A-2)	(g) From Community Preservation Funds (See A-4)	(h) *** Departmental Revolving Funds	(i) Borrowing Authorization (Other)	
05/05/2025	2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
06/09/2025	2026	5,153,436.00	4,318,842.00	587,094.00	247,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
10/06/2025	2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total		5,153,436.00	4,318,842.00	587,094.00	247,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			

* Enter the fiscal year to which the appropriation relates.
** Appropriations included in column (b) must not be reduced by local receipts or any other funding source.
Appropriations must be entered gross to avoid a duplication in the use of estimated or other sources of receipts.
*** Include only revolving funds pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2.

Signatures

Clerk

I hereby certify that the appropriations correctly reflect the votes taken by City / Town / District Council.
[Doreen Stevens, Town Clerk , Gill , townclerk@gillmass.org 413-863-8103 | 10/8/2025 12:41 PM](#)
Comment:

Documents

Documents have been uploaded.



2026 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Request Form

Municipality: GILL

Date: 01/26/2026

Your Name: Ray Purington

Board/Department: Town Administrator

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Review form with Town/City committees, boards, and departments, and **compile one consolidated request form.**
2. Check the column or box for each project your Town/City is interested in. Provide a contact name and email for each project.
3. Rank your top 3 priorities at the end of the form.
4. Email completed form to Jessica Atwood (jatwood@frcog.org) **by no later than the close of business on Friday, January 30, 2026.**

NOTE: For planning purposes, the 2026 DLTA year is January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Projects could commence as early as February 1; projects involving fieldwork likely won't commence until May.

✓ YES	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE/ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
X	Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project/Turners Falls Dam FERC relicensing and MassDEP 401 Certification of Water Quality process. Provide technical assistance, advocacy, testimony, and analysis, and participate as an intervenor and stakeholder on behalf of impacted towns.	Ray Purington, administrator@gillmass.org
	Planning to Protect Public Drinking Water Supplies. Assist towns with creating plans, such as a Wellhead Protection Plan, to manage and protect their water supply, including drought management planning.	
	Pollinator Habitat Plan. Develop materials and conduct an informational meeting about local pollinator habitat plans; and/or provide technical assistance to prepare a proposal to apply for funding to create a local pollinator habitat plan. <i>Available to: Charlemont, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, New Salem, Northfield, Rowe, Sunderland, Warwick and Whately.</i>	
	River Corridor Management Best Practices. Identify opportunities for managing flooding and erosion hazards along rivers, including mapping the River Corridor, updating land use regulations, updating municipal planning documents and coordinating reviews with Conservation Commissions for projects in the mapped River Corridor.	
	<i>See Zoning and Comprehensive Planning for zoning-specific technical assistance.</i>	

✓ YES	COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
	Broadband and Digital Equity. Provide technical assistance to access resources to improve broadband access and/or digital equity, such as through MassBroadband Institute (MBI) and other agencies.	
	Business and Industry Assistance (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support access to small business development/entrepreneurship assistance resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide industry specific support to advance or strengthen an important economic sector, such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, or another industry. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	
	Community Asset Inventory (please specify): Create a digital inventory and conduct GIS mapping of assets for use by the municipality for purposes of planning, coordinating maintenance and/or making information available to the public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery graves. <input type="checkbox"/> Historical properties (listed at local, state and/or federal levels). <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor recreation assets. <input type="checkbox"/> Public art and historical/cultural assets. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	
	Community Economic Development (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a survey to understand what residents, businesses and visitors want for economic activity in their downtown/village center or community. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an analysis of a defined area (i.e. village center, corridor) to assess current economic activity and identify opportunities. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide technical assistance to create or expand an industrial park, business park, or other space for multiple businesses. <input type="checkbox"/> Support municipal implementation of the MA Vacant Storefront Program. <input type="checkbox"/> Support municipal pursuit for Chapter 43D: Expedited Local Permitting designation. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	

	Development/Redevelopment Assistance for a Specific Site (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide technical assistance to advance the redevelopment of an underutilized property (with property owner support), such as reuse visioning or identifying pre-development resources, including brownfields. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide technical assistance to promote a site available for redevelopment to the developer community property, such as drafting a Request for Information or preparing promotional materials. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Proposed site for assistance: _____	
	Downtown District Support. Extend the Rural Development Fund grant received to pilot a Downtown District Coordinator for Northfield Center (Northfield), Shelburne Falls (Buckland and Shelburne) and Turners Falls (Montague).	
	Farmland Planning. Conduct farmland mapping, prioritization and action planning to support implementation of the MDAR Farmland Action Plan.	
X	Floodplain Map Changes. Assist town with determining and communicating FEMA flood hazard area map changes, in coordination with FEMA finalizing the updated maps. (Depending on timing of FEMA finalizing maps, task may be delayed to 2027.)	
	Historic Preservation Planning. Provide technical assistance on identifying potential National Register nominations, or evaluating other preservation related tools (such as local historic district guidelines) or advising on the creation of a town historic preservation plan.	
	Housing Production Review. Conduct an assessment of municipal regulations, zoning bylaws, and other conditions; and make recommendations to foster more housing production and implement best practices.	
	Outdoor Recreation/Open Space Planning Support. Provide technical assistance to support outdoor recreation planning (such as mapping a preliminary trail route) or municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) creation/update (such as identifying plan funding, or a mapping or action plan update)	
	Public Art/Cultural Planning. Provide technical assistance to support cultural/public art planning, such as helping to develop a public art project or pop-up park.	
	<i>See Zoning and Comprehensive Planning for zoning specific technical assistance.</i>	

✓ YES	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
	Cybersecurity Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop an education program around cybersecurity for municipal officials. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a cybersecurity emergency response plan. 	
	Emergency Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Sheltering Planning. Update regional sheltering plans and hold a tabletop exercise to test them. <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Evacuation Planning. Analyze local evacuation plans to ensure that inter-town routes do not conflict. A countywide look at these evacuation routes has not been completed since 2012 and hazard risk profiles have grown since then. <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Debris Management Plan Update. The project will update the regional debris management plan from 2015. Debris management addresses woody debris, such as trees, and also demolition materials. The project will conclude with a tabletop exercise to test the revised plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen Emergency Preparedness and Response. Support local emergency management through creation and maintenance of emergency plans, trainings, and exercises. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Management Director Sharing. Assist municipalities in studying or implementing shared emergency management services. <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center. Work with MA State Police to identify a new site and develop preliminary building concepts for a regional dispatch center and a regional emergency operations center for all Franklin County municipalities, including Greenfield and Montague. 	

	Emergency Medical Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> West County EMS Regionalization. Support the efforts of ten towns in West County to regionalize their ambulance service. <input type="checkbox"/> Montague EMS Regionalization. Support Montague in exploring how it can regionalize its ambulance service. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Medical Services Sharing. Assist municipalities not mentioned above in studying or implementing shared ambulance services. 	
X	Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Chief Succession Planning. Identify which fire chiefs will soon need to retire based on age restrictions and work with them to develop a succession plan based on current department members and other firefighting resources in the county. <input type="checkbox"/> ISO Rating Research and Advocacy. Work with insurance companies, the ISO, and the state legislature to determine if there is a way to share fire services across municipalities without negatively affecting ISO ratings, and hence, insurance ratings. <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Service Sharing. Assist municipalities in studying or implementing shared fire services. 	Support for using DLTA funds on this project, but not necessarily active participation.
	Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Police Service Sharing. Assist municipalities in studying or implementing shared police services. 	

✓ YES	REGIONAL PLANS AND CAPACITY BUILDING	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
	CPHS Member Town Abandoned and Distressed Property Inventory and Action. Inventory abandoned and distressed properties and work with town stakeholders to prioritize action through receivership or other methods. <i>Based on staffing capacity, available only to CPHS member towns.</i>	
X	Training for local officials on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in local governments and developing municipal policies for AI use.	Ray Purington, administrator@gillmass.org
	Local Official Continuing Education Workshops and 5th Wednesdays. Continue to offer workshops to Select Board, Planning Board, Board of Health, Finance Committee members and other public officials and continue 5 th Wednesday series that have focused mostly on legislative advocacy. <i>Please share your ideas for workshop topics: _____</i>	

	Municipal Succession Planning. Consider how towns can prepare for retirements of long-term public servants in key municipal positions (appointed, elected and volunteer) through development of a Citizen's Academy, succession planning, participation in career fairs and expos, diversification of the municipal workforce, etc.	
X	Community Health Improvement Plan: provide implementation support and evaluation of the 2024-28 regional Franklin County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which identified 13 health improvement priorities for our region.	Support for using DLTA funds on this project, but not necessarily active participation.
	Rural Policy Plan (RPP) Implementation and Update. Complete 2025 refresh of the 2019 Plan; identify top priority projects/policy for rural MA and for Franklin County; advocate for projects, programs and policies that benefit Franklin County.	

✓ YES	SHARED SERVICES	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
X	Municipal Service Sharing Feasibility, Matchmaking, or Other Technical Assistance (please specify). <i>Find emergency management options above.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities management of municipal buildings and grounds – explore options for shared hiring and procurement of vendor services <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain Management “back office” assistance – assisting towns to understand guidelines, gather needed records and materials; provide planning assistance to local Floodplain Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Grant and contract administration/management, especially One Stop programs like Rural Development Fund and MVP. <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Financial Services: <i>Please be specific:</i> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> OSHA municipal requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Wood Bank Development <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	Ray Purington, administrator@gillmass.org
	New Collective Purchasing ideas (please specify): _____	

	Older Adult Services (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Age and Dementia-friendly community planning (development of an assessment and an action plan for the Town; assistance with implementing an existing plan) <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Center Expansion, Regional Sharing <input type="checkbox"/> Development and Piloting of a regional Dementia Risk Reduction and Brain Health Promotion Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	
	Regional Opioid Settlement Spending. Assist towns with development of an opioid settlement funds spending plan.	

✓ YES	TRANSPORTATION	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
	Complete Streets Improvements. Assess local roads for potential for Complete Streets improvements.	
	Roadway Speed Study. Assess roadway speeds and prepare speed zoning study to provide guidance for new or revised regulatory speed limits on local roadways.	
	Signs and Lines Assessment. Assess signs and pavement markings for clarity, visibility and reflectivity. Assess for obstructions to visibility like overgrown vegetation at intersections and near roads.	
X	Unpaved Road Assessments. Assess problematic sections of unpaved roads for potential improvements that can be funded with new state grant funding.	John Miner, highway@gillmass.org
	<i>Note: Roadway Culvert Assessment is not offered this year. Due to the high demand, the towns of Northfield and Whately are in the queue for culvert assessments in 2026. The wait list will be reopened in 2027.</i>	

✓ YES	ZONING AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANS	Contact for Project: Name & email or phone #
	Comprehensive Plans (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide technical assistance and guidance in advance of a Comprehensive Plan, such as draft scope of work, grant research and application, form committee, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a community-wide survey and/or other public outreach to inform the creation of a vision and goals for a new or updated Comprehensive Plan. 	

<p>X</p>	<p>Zoning Bylaws (please specify):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with the state's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) model zoning bylaw <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assistance with the state's <i>pending</i> model bylaw for Solar Photovoltaic Systems and Battery Energy Storage Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with the state's model Floodplain Bylaw <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with implementing zoning changes to diversify housing options and/or address Short-Term Rentals <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with zoning related to stormwater management/flood resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Review current Subdivision Regulations to determine if they should be updated <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	<p>Nona LaGrenade, clerical@gillmass.org</p>
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[Form continues next page]

RANK	Of all of the projects you selected, what are your municipality's <u>top three</u> DLTA project priorities?
<p>Your Municipality's Top 3 Choices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project/Turners Falls Dam FERC relicensing and MassDEP 401 Certification of Water Quality process</u> 2. <u>Unpaved Road Assessments</u> 3. <u>Floodplain Map Changes/Floodplain Management "back office" assistance</u> 	

	GRANT ASSISTANCE	
	<p>The FRCOG can assist municipalities with researching state & federal grant opportunities, preparing grant application packages, and with grant, contract and financial management (once the contract is awarded). If you need help with an application or with project management, please provide a brief description of the project and identify the municipal contact (name and email).</p> <p><u>Assistance with researching grants for Dry Brook Bridge (North Cross Road) – possibly to do the engineering for the bridge replacement</u></p> <p>Contact Name & Email: <u>John Miner, highway@gillmass.org</u></p>	

	SHARED HOUSING COORDINATOR	
	<p>With separate funding pursued in response to municipal interest (i.e. not DLTA), the FRCOG is creating a Shared Housing Coordinator pilot program to assist towns with housing development site selection and moving housing projects through the development pipeline. (Participating towns need to provide an approximate \$5,000 match between 1/1/26 and 6/30/27.) If interested in being part of the pilot, please check here.</p>	

List of projects from Energy Commission - 2026

There are three buildings in town that still need attention. They are listed below with necessary projects, and some questions.

Public Safety Complex (PSC):

- Comprehensive Building Assessment (CBA)?
 - Free through MassSave
 - Nick Petitpas - Energy Efficiency Consultant at Eversource supports it and “in most cases, Eversource will fund 100% of the study cost”
 - Recommendations:
 - Center for Ecotechnology (CET) in Florence
 - Cascade Energy
- We hope the CBA gives us more information about the electrical upgrade necessary
- Future needs for PSC:
 - Mini splits for offices
 - Air compressor
 - EV chargers and capacity for potential heavy duty EVs
 - Geothermal?? Could replace all heating needs
 - Improved bay doors
 - Prepare for replacing heavy duty vehicles to EV

Gill Elementary School:

- BETA Project Planning from MassCEC (Clean Energy Center)
 - Years ago BETA applications for Turners High School & Gill Elementary were submitted by Heath Cummings. The work has been completed at the high school and they want to know if the elementary school wants to be re-enrolled (we don't need to reapply)
 - “No cost, in-depth building audit” that would require us to complete the work by 2050. They don't provide funds for the suggested work but we could apply for GC grant.

Riverside Municipal building:

- Roof replacement - remove ventilation shaft and reinforce roof
- Apply for META grant for the feasibility study of the roof - “Design of a solar PV plus battery energy storage system on property owned by a municipality”
- Could the previously appropriated funds be used for electrical upgrade at PSC?



TOWN OF GILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT



Date: 1/11/26

Personal Information:

Name: Lucy Ozdarski Home Phone: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Greenfield, MA 01301 Cell Phone: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]

Are you eighteen (18) years of age or older? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License? ☒ Yes ☐ No List state, number, expiration date, and type/endorsement: Massachusetts [REDACTED] class D

Education and Training:

Name/Location	Course of Study	Years Completed	Degree
High School: <u>Greenfield</u>	<u>High School, Greenfield, MA</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>years</u>
College:			

Please list any information regarding your qualifications, skills, and experience in FIRE/EMS positions such as licenses, trainings, certifications, etc. Include copies of all certificates if possible.

Employment History:

Present employer: _____
Address: _____
Supervisor: _____ Telephone: _____
Position Title and Duties: _____
Reason For Leaving: _____
Dates of Employment: _____

Past Employer: _____
Address: _____
Supervisor: _____ Telephone: _____
Position Title and Duties: _____
Reason For Leaving: _____
Dates of Employment: _____

Past Employer: _____
Address: _____
Supervisor: _____ Telephone: _____
Position Title and Duties: _____
Reason For Leaving: _____
Dates of Employment: _____

May we contact the employers listed above? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, indicate which: _____

Please Read And Complete Carefully:

- 1 If hired, can you provide proof of citizenship and legal right to work? X Yes No
- 2 Have you ever been fired or asked to resign from any job? If yes, please list employer, date, and reason below. Yes X No
- 3 Is there any reason that you could not adequately perform the essential duties of the position for which you have applied? Yes X No
- 4 Have you been cited for any moving violations in the last three years? Yes X No
- 5 Have you had any motor vehicle accidents in the last three years? Yes X No
- 6 Has your driver's license ever been suspended, revoked, denied, or canceled? Yes X No
- 7 Has your medical certification (EMTs) ever been investigated, suspended, or revoked? Yes X No

Explain in full detail all "Yes" answers below (other than #1 above).

Are you currently charged with or have you ever been convicted of a felony? (Include any finding or plea of guilt.) If yes, provide a detailed description including dates, locations, charges, and disposition. Additional documentation may be necessary.

NO

Additional Information:

Briefly describe why you wish to become a member of this department.

I've always wanted to be a fireman, I
wanted to continue to work on this
department.

Please provide at least three (3) professional/work-related references to whom you are not related.

	Name	Employment/Job Title	Contact Number
1	<u>Kyle Gordon</u>	<u>High School teacher</u>	<u>615</u>
2	<u>Amy Russell</u>	<u>Special educator</u>	<u>415</u>
3	<u>Alex Scotera</u>	<u>McDonalds</u>	<u>415</u>

You may provide any other information that you feel is relevant to the review of your application.

I certify that all information provided in this application is true and complete. I understand that any false information or omission may disqualify me from further consideration and may result in my immediate dismissal if discovered at a later date.

I authorize the investigation of any or all statements contained in this application and also authorize and hold exempt any person, school, current and past employers (except as previously noted), and organizations from any legal liability in making such statements. I hereby fully waive any rights or claims I have or may have against all current and/or former employers and their agents, employees, and representatives, and damages that may directly or indirectly result from the use, disclosure or release of any information by any person or party, whether such information is favorable or unfavorable to me. I further waive any claim against the Town of Gill, the Gill Fire Department and its agents and representatives, and any outside agency utilized by the Town of Gill or the Gill Fire Department as a result of any information which is obtained in this investigation.

I understand that this application or subsequent employment does not create a contract of employment nor guarantee employment for any definite period of time. If accepted for employment, I understand that I have been hired at the will of the Town of Gill and the Gill Fire Department and my employment may be terminated at any time with or without cause and with or without notice, at the option of the employer or myself.

The Town of Gill is an Equal Opportunity employer.

Signature: Alex Scotera Date: 1/11/26

To: Selectboards and Town Administrators/Coordinators
From: Alan Genovese, STRPB Chair, Greg Snedeker, Vice Chair /Secretary/Treasurer
CC: STRPB Members
RE: Progress Update, Funding Support, Feedback on 5 Town/Six Town Warrant Articles

We trust your New Year is off to a great start and wish you the best in the coming year.

Progress Update - RA & LRP: Since our last communication we have been working with DESE on finalizing the Regional Agreement (RA), updating and revising the Long Range Plan (LRP) and coordinating other related requirements. Needless to say, this has been an arduous process but progress is being made. We are in the home stretch with the RA and it should be completed in the next couple of weeks. DESE is reviewing the Long Range Plan and providing feedback. The PB will soon approve both these revised documents

Ballot Question: Thanks to your letters of support of “leveling the playing field” and requesting that voting takes place at the polls in all towns, our legislators are exploring a potential pathway for this to happen. You should have received an email from Senator Comerford explaining that the Senate Counsel believes that because the legislation is regional or county-based it is not subject to the Home Rule Petition amendment and this legislation would not be specific to a single town.

Senator Comerford noted that Representative Whipps has graciously offered to check with House Counsel to see if her colleagues concur. If special legislation can be filed, it would be a “late-file” bill and would need to be admitted by both the House and Senate clerks. It would then be sent to a Joint Committee where it would need to receive a public hearing. After that hearing, it would need to be favorably advanced out of the Joint Committee to either the Rules or the Ways and Means Committee of either the House or the Senate. It would then need to pass the full House and the full Senate before ballots for local elections are printed.

As you have noted, with such a significant question being considered, which would impact all residents, it is important to have as many people as possible weigh-in on this important decision. It would be ideal if this could be coordinated with town elections. If this is not possible, there could be a special election held at a later date. However, depending on the timing of special legislation, if that is permissible, this is something we will be asking for your input before the PB makes a decision on this matter. For planning purposes, please let us know the dates of your Annual Town Meeting and Elections.

Transitional Funding Clarification: In late November, we had a meeting with DESE focused on the LRP and they were helpful in asking questions to help clarify some of the sections. One question was about the expenses in the first year of the Central Office operational budget and

how that was tied to the request for transitional funding. The projected transitional costs were approximately \$435,000 and the proposed Central Office budget for the first year of operation was \$1.9 million.

Backing up two months. In September, I remember driving home thinking about this and pulled over in Northfield and called Greg and told him we needed to let our legislators know ASAP about the need for \$1.9 million for transition costs before they started the budget process. My thinking and focus at the time was that we needed that money for the school committee to begin its first year of operation rather than the money needed to get things set up between a positive vote and the beginning of the new district's operations. Therefore, the transitional costs were incorrectly shared with our legislators. The Long Range Plan was always correct, but the number I cited was unfortunately incorrect. This is why we put so many eyes on our reports, to quickly correct any incorrect data or messaging.

This is great news when considering the transition costs! Since November, we have spent even more time drilling down into these costs to find more savings. In revisiting the LRP it seemed reasonable and prudent to have part-time and stipend positions assisting the Transition School Committee and doing so would make the “ask” more attainable. This resulted in a request for \$250,000. This “good news” was shared with our legislators and correspondence was sent to them to see if it would be possible to include transitional funding for \$250,000 in this year's budget. Even if this is not possible or only partially funded by the State, this lower amount opens up far more possibilities for funding the transition.

I believe Representative Whipps is working on this and if it makes it into the House budget, then it can run its course and be included in the Senate budget. Our representatives are doing everything they can to support the efforts of the Planning Board and your interests. We are grateful to have them working on our behalf. Please note that the updated/revised LRP will be republished on our website in the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, your letters are very powerful! Writing in support of the \$250,000 for transitional funding would be helpful. This money would be used to hire part time people, possibly pay existing people a stipend, such as superintendent, Business Administrator, for legal services to negotiate 5 Collective Bargaining Agreements, and other costs associated with assisting the Transition School Committee in providing a smooth process for students to transition to the Great River Regional School District. If you would like more detail, please do not hesitate to call me.

Meeting with DESE Commissioner: Senator Comerford is in the process of coordinating a meeting with the Commissioner. Because the Commissioner is new to Massachusetts, the goal of our meeting is to give him more information and context about Western Massachusetts regional

school districts, explain our specific initiative, discuss potential funding sources, and express the need for more regional technical infrastructure, support and resources for towns/districts/Planning Boards. We look forward to providing you an update.

***IMPORTANT* Two Regional Proposals - 5 towns/6 towns:** The possibility of having 2 RAs (i.e., two regional proposals) has been raised by a number of residents in our communities. The law (Chapter 71, Sec. 15) allows for the Planning Board to propose “an agreement or agreements.” As you are aware, the current proposal includes two regional school districts and one municipal school district. If the municipal school district (i.e., Warwick) votes not to support the 6 town regional school district, then the entire proposal fails. **However, if a second RA is proposed with a separate warrant article to vote, whereby the five towns of GM and PV, excluding Warwick, support regionalizing the 5 towns, then it would not be necessary to redo the entire regionalization process.**

The Planning Board had the Abrahams Group recently calculate the assessments for the 5 towns and these have been shared. If you would like to see them again, please send Greg Snedeker a request. Once the 6 town Regional Agreement is finalized, it should be a relatively easy lift to create a 5 town RA. The same would be true for the LRP. We are willing to do this extra work if you believe it should be a viable option for the townspeople to consider. **If possible, would you please put this on your next agenda for discussion (and vote)? Please send us your decision either way. The particulars on how the warrant article(s) are constructed will be pursued if you are in favor of having two proposed RAs as described.**

Basically, Warwick would vote on only one agreement. The other five towns would vote on two agreements. If the townspeople in all 6 towns approve the 6 town RA then we would have a 6 town regional district. If Warwick votes “no,” and if all five towns vote to approve the 5 town RA (second ballot vote), then we would have a 5 town regional district.

Thank you in advance for reading this lengthy correspondence. I hope you found it informative. and helpful in keeping you in the loop. If you would like a member of the PB to attend any of your meetings please let us know. We are doing this work on your behalf, and we want to be sure we are representing your interests.

Again, best wishes in the New Year!