

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 18, 2015

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Meeting Date: February 18, 2015

Called to Order: 6:15 PM

Location: 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

Finance Committee Members Present: Sharon Kennaugh, Lynn Reynolds, and Greg Garrison. John Hanold and Michael Naughton were absent.

Others Present: Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

Letter to Gill-Montague School Committee

The members reviewed the letter drafted by Mr. Naughton.

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the letter to the Gill-Montague School Committee regarding the Compact.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

List of Documents and Exhibits

- Letter to Gill-Montague School Committee (below)

Next Meetings:

February 25, 2015	Libraries, FCTS, CIC, (John and Sharon will be absent)
March 4, 2015	GMRSD, Selectmen and Miscellaneous Departments
March 11, 2015	Final Use of Reserves, Final Schedules I and II
March 18, 2015	Special & Annual Town Meeting Special Articles
March 25, 2015	Vote Budget with sources of funding
April 1, 2015	Draft Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting
April 8, 2015	Revenue updates
April 15, 2015	Final votes/re-votes for recommendations, final report

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To: Gill-Montague Regional School Committee
From: Montague Finance Committee
Date: February 18, 2015

Cc: Gill Selectboard
Michael Sullivan, Superintendent

Dear Members of the School Committee:

We join the Gill Selectboard in supporting the Compact for Funding Education (aka “the Compact”). We share their belief that it has played a vital part in ending the budget stalemates that were the norm a few short years ago, replacing them with overwhelming town support for district assessment requests. While the timeline in the original Table B extended only through FY2015, the Compact itself has no expiration date, and our understanding is that it will remain in effect unless and until its member parties agree to terminate it. At this time, we continue to believe that it is both a useful and a necessary document.

Of course changes may be needed from time to time, and we agree with the Gill Selectboard that the Compact itself provides an appropriate framework for negotiating and implementing those changes. In our view, the underlying principle of the Compact is that “we’re all in this together”; we believe that shared belief is crucial for both district and town sustainability, and we strongly support it going forward.

We sincerely hope that the school district joins us in this support, and that we can continue to work together to provide adequate and sustainable funding for education into the future.

Sincerely,

Montague Finance Committee