Voters in Leverett (Mass.) want to implement a "weak chief" statute for the town’s police department. The measure was approved by town voters despite opposition from local police officers.

By DIANE BRONACCI
Recorder Staff

LEVERETT — Residents said "no" to Leverett's sharing a full-time police chief with nearby Shutesbury at Saturday's annual town meeting. The shared-chief article was defeated in a ballot vote of 60 to 107, after lengthy debate.

Selectboard member James Lyons, a former police officer, said he opposed the plan. He predicted that the town would end up with two poor police chiefs. The town would be better off with a full-time police chief, he said.

Levinson said he expected to carry on negotiations with Shutesbury. "We would be sharing a chief, not combining departments," he stressed. "Regionalization is one thing — that the town has a lot of success with over the years. We have all the examples of how it would be implemented," he said. "Let's talk about the concept of the chief and our continued negotiations with Shutesbury.

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Gill renews 10-year recycling agreement


Gill Re-elected

GILL, Mass. — Incumbent Gill Selectmen Bob O'Brien, Tim Lamothe and Dan Scudder were all re-elected to the Selectboard in Tuesday's annual town meeting.

Gill votes carry Leverett election

By DIANE BRONACCI
Recorder Staff

LEVERETT — Without any election contest, there was no need to cast ballot votes, so candidates were voted into office in the traditional way, by voice votes at Saturday's annual town meeting.

James Perkins is now on the Finance Committee. Joan Godsey was elected a three-year, library trustee term, replacing Sandra O'Connor. Peter Climer replaces Barbara Tiner on the School Committee. Incumbents re-elected to office are:

Selectboard, Richard Brazeau
Planning Board (five-year term), Stephen Freedman
Moderator, Gary Gruber
Assistant Moderator (one-year term), Fay Zilkowitz
Library Trustees, Chris Condlin

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EDMOND F. COUSINEAU

Gill residents approved a new 10-year recycling agreement with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, which will give the town $13.23 per ton of recyclables, plus a share of revenue generated from the sale of recyclables.

They also agreed to spend $7,440 in Community Preservation Fund revenues to restore the original windows in the Leverett Town Hall.

Voters gave the selectboard authorization to negotiate for lower electricity rates with other municipal groups.

There was also a citizen's petition to send a resolution to national leaders and the media to develop a plan for the withdrawal of U.S. troops in Iraq. The petition is on the agenda of next town meeting.