

**Town of Egremont, MA
Annual Town Meeting**

June 23, 2020

The Egremont Annual Town Meeting of June 23, 2020, held outdoors at French Park in Egremont, MA, was called to order at 6:05 pm by Moderator Stephen Cohen. The Moderator attested to the proper service of the warrant, noted the presence of a quorum, gave instructions for the meeting and introduced Town Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence to honor the victims of COVID-19 and thank those who have served on the front-lines was observed.

ARTICLE 1: Selectboard Chairman George McGurn spoke to the warrant, the good standing of town finances and thanked those who worked on putting the warrant for FY2021 together.

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate monies to defray charges and expenses to the Town, to set the salaries of elected officials, include salaries of certain Town officers and employees, debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund, all beginning July 1, 2020 for the ensuing twelve months.

The Moderator went through Article 2 by section.

Holds were placed on Section 6/C and D by Egremont registered voter Jacob Borden. Mr. Borden read a statement which proposed defunding police services. Motion made and second to amend Section 6/C and D. Discussion ensued.

Vote on motion to amend the warrant and defund police services was defeated by majority show of hands.

Laura Allen of the Egremont Finance Committee made motion to amend warrant to reduce amount of Section 10/A. Motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.

Vote on motion to amend carried by majority show of hands.

Vote to raise and appropriate \$301,550 for line item Section 10/A carried by a majority show of hands.

SBRSD Superintendent Beth Regulbuto spoke to the school budget.

Vote on all remaining Article 1line items carried by majority show of hands.

1. OFFICIALS AND BOARDS	\$ 398,310.00
A. Accounting Officer Expense	1,500.00

B. Accounting Officer	13,757.00
C. Agricultural Commission	400.00
D. Assessors Clerical	3,042.00
E. Assessor's Consulting	36,000.00
F. Assessor's Expense	2,650.00
G. Assessor #1 Salary	4,921.00
H. Assessor #2 Salary	4,921.00
I. Assessor #3 Salary	4,921.00
J. Board of Appeals Expense	100.00
K. Board of Health Expense	4,500.00
L. Board of Health Director	27,586.00
M. Health Alliance Services	12,000.00
N. Building Inspector Salary	31,388.00
O. Asst. Building Inspector	1,500.00
P. Conservation Comm. Expense	2,605.00
Q. Conservation Agent	1,000.00
R. Conservation Comm. Clerical	3,000.00
S. Constable's Salary	658.00
T. Finance Committee Expense	400.00
U. Inspectors' Expenses	2,780.00
V. Personnel Director	11,300.00
W. Planning Board Expense	2,500.00
X. Planning Board Wages	0.00
Y. Sel. Office Administrator	67,462.00
Z. Selectmen Office Expense	16,550.00
AA. Selectman #1 Salary	5,498.00
BB. Selectman #2 Salary	5,101.00
CC. Selectman #3 Salary	5,101.00
DD. Sustainability Coordinator	7,081.00
EE. Sustainability Coord expenses	350.00
FF. Town Clerk Expense	7,000.00
GG. Town Clerk Salary	11,591.00
HH. Town Hall Office Clerk	26,871.00
II. Treasurer/Collector Expense	11,495.00
JJ. Treasurer/Collector Salary	59,281.00
KK. Treasurer/Collector Clerk	1,500.00
2. TOWN EXPENSES	\$ 318,679.00
A. Animal Control Officer	2,677.00
B. Animal Control Expenses	1,000.00
C. Audit	8,037.00

D. Board of Registrars Salary	50.00
E. Compactor Operation	105,295.00
F. Compactor Substitute Wages	6,473.00
G. Computer Expenses	100,590.00
H. Computer Administrator	5,700.00
I. Drug and Alcohol Tests	360.00
J. Egremont Newsletter	4,000.00
K. Election Wages	4,500.00
L. Group Purchasing	1,510.00
M. Geographic Information System	4,500.00
N. High Speed Internet	4,251.00
O. Email Archiving/back-up	2,700.00
P. Historical Commission Expense	2,300.00
Q. Inspector of Animals	500.00
R. Legal Expenses	2,000.00
S. Legal Fees	16,000.00
T. Litigation	5,000.00
U. Moderator	330.00
V. Public Health Services	2,575.00
W. School Committee	2,121.00
X. School Crossing Guard	500.00
Y. So. Berk. Chamber Commerce	260.00
Z. Town Engineer	4,450.00
AA. Town Report	300.00
BB. Town Telephone	9,600.00
CC. Veteran's Benefits	21,000.00
DD. Zoning Bylaws Printing	100.00

3. TOWN MAINTENANCE **\$ 217,863.00**

A. Bldg Maint. General Exp.	20,850.00
B. Bldg Maint. Utility Exp.	34,650.00
C. Building Maintenance Wages	13,612.00
D. Maintenance Superintendent	52,659.00
E. Cemetery Maintenance	1,100.00
F. French Park Maintenance	2,825.00
G. French Park Committee	1,500.00
H. French Park Overtime Wages	5,555.00
I. French Park Wages	12,840.00
J. Public Lighting	6,000.00
K. Building Improvements	12,000.00
M. Tree Work	30,000.00

N. Tree Warden	6,272.00
O. Cemetery Exp & Maint	18,000.00
4. HIGHWAYS	\$ 594,604.00
A. Const. & Maint. Wages	5,000.00
B. Construction & Maintenance	194,800.00
C. Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	64,100.00
D. Highway Union	166,455.00
E. Superintendent Salary	69,249.00
F. Snow & Ice Removal	70,000.00
G. Snow & Ice Removal Wages	25,000.00
5. LIBRARY	\$ 38,049.00
A. Expenses	13,525.00
B. Librarian's Salary	23,539.00
C. Library Substitute Wages	985.00
6. POLICE	\$437,177.00
A. Chief Expenses	4,500.00
B. Chief Salary	82,640.00
C. Collective Bargaining	304,165.00
D. Department Expenses	11,500.00
E. Police Wages-Secretary	18,372.00
F. Vehicle Expenses	16,000.00
7. FIRE AND EMERGENCY	\$114,855.00
A. Dispatch Facilities	11,272.00
B. Emergency Management	1,600.00
C. Emergency Management Wages	2,633.00
D. Fire Department Expense	53,500.00
E. Draft Hydrants	0.00
F. Firefighters Stipend	30,000.00
G. Forest Fires	1,000.00
H. Fire Dept. Admin.	12,000.00
I. Street Number 911	100.00
J. Blackboard Connect alert	2,250.00
K. So Berk Reg Emergency Plan	500.00
8. DEBT AND INTEREST	\$ 124,703.00
A. Interest Short Term Debt	10,000.00
B. Police Facility	31,200.00

C. Mt. Washington Rd Eng	12,836.00
D. Rescue Truck	70,667.00

9. HUMAN SERVICES **\$ 42,945.00**

A. Brien Center/Mental Health	2,203.00
B. Berk South Community Center	2,000.00
C. Community Health Programs	1,000.00
D. Berk. Comm. Action Council	1,000.00
E. Construct, Inc.	1,500.00
F. Eagle Fund	1,000.00
G. Council on Aging	13,230.00
H. Egremont Garden Club	275.00
I. Elizabeth Freeman Center	500.00
J. Fairview Hospital	1,500.00
K. Housatonic Valley Assoc	250.00
L. Hospice Care	1,000.00
M. Railroad Street Youth Project	1,500.00
N. Elderly Transport	10,587.00
O. Literacy Network of So. Berk.	400.00
P. Friends of Prospect Lake	5,000.00

10. INSURANCE **\$ 646,233.00**

A. Health/Dental	301,550.00
B. Pension	187,101.00
C. Property & Casualty	122,557.00
D. Social Security/Medicare	17,000.00
E. Unemployment	10,000.00
F. Longevity Pay	3,025.00
G. Sick Leave	5,000.00

11. RESERVE FUND **\$ 25,000.00**

12. SCHOOLS **\$ 1,704,531.00**

A. Operating & Transport	1,634,140.00
B. Capital Costs	34,853.00
C. Bond Payment	35,538.00

TOTAL LINE ITEM BUDGET APPROVED AT MEETING \$ 4,662,949.00

Article 3: Motion made and seconded to raise from Water Department revenues \$220,000, and raise and appropriate \$22,356 for a total of \$242,356 for the Water Department's operating budget as spelled out as follows:

A. Water Debt	\$ 98,650.00
B. Water Operating Exp	25,000.00
C. Salaries/Wages	55,206.00
D. Utilities	10,000.00
E. Office Expenses	1,600.00
F. Water System Maint., Repair, Replacement, Upgrade	37,500.00
G. Audit	4,000.00
H. Insurance	8,400.00
I. Software/Engineer Design Work	2,000.00
Total	\$242,356.00

Necessary funds to be raised as follows:

Water Dept. Revenues	\$220,000.00
Retained earnings	0.00
Tax Levy subsidy	22,356.00

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 4: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$14,279.00 to pay Southern Berkshire Ambulance. Bill Hathaway of Southern Berkshire Ambulance spoke to motion.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 5: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to pay the Fire Chief.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 6: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Fire Department's expenses for OSHA compliance (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 7: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,400 for the Agricultural Commission to create pollinator habitats in Egremont. Short discussion ensued.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 8: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Cemetery Perpetual Care \$6,000.00 for repairs at the Town's Cemeteries. Short discussion ensued.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 9: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$14,500.00 to make repairs at French Park. Short discussion ensued.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 10: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$117,000.00 to purchase and install a new, larger capacity generator at Town Hall and to upgrade the Town Hall electrical service. Short discussion ensued.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 11: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000.00 to blacktop a portion of the Town Hall driveway and parking lot. Discussion ensued.

Vote: motion defeated by a majority show of hands.

Article 12: Motion made and seconded raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 to make road repairs to Town roads.

Egremont registered voter Charles Proctor made motion to amend and increase the line item figure to \$150,000. Motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.

Vote: motion to amend carried by a majority hand count of 47 - 35.

Vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to make road repairs carried by majority show of hands.

Article 13: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 to update a portion of the town's MACRS historic listings. Rebecca Turner of the Historical Commission spoke to motion. Short discussion ensued.

Vote: motion defeated by a majority show of hands.

Article 14: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to restore books and ledgers in the Archives room.

Vote: motion defeated by a majority show of hands.

Article 15: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000.00 to special GASB 45 stabilization fund (for future retiree benefits other than pension). Discussion ensued.

Vote: motion defeated by a majority show of hands.

Article 16: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash \$10,000.00 to the Stabilization Fund.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 17: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Selectboard to seek any and all approvals from the general court necessary pursuant to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, to allow the town to utilize a portion of French Park, namely that approximate portion of so-called French Park in the Town of Egremont, Assessors' Map 9 Parcel 982 approximately one hundred eighty feet (180') northerly of the southeast corner of Egremont Tax Map 9 Parcel 982, at Latitude 42.190154 and Longitude -73.439622, for the purposes of constructing a Broadband Headend, as well as any easements or rights of way necessary to maintain such facilities.

Discussion ensued.

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 18: Motion made and seconded to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges. (Approximately \$165,519.00)

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Article 19: Motion made and seconded to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2021 beginning on July 1, 2020 for the revolving funds established in Egremont General Bylaw 24 for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or other officers in

accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E $\frac{1}{2}$, as spelled out as follows:

A Revolving Fund	B Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fiscal Year 21 Spending Limit
French Park	Board of Selectmen and Buildings and Grounds	\$2,000.00
Home Compost Bins	Board of Selectmen and Sustainability Coordinator	\$500.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,000.00
Dog License and donation fund	Town Clerk	\$5,000.00
Inspector Wages	Wiring, Plumbing & Gas Inspectors	\$25,000.00
Compostable Materials	Green Committee and Sustainability Coordinator	\$500.00
Recycling Proceeds	Board of Selectmen and Sustainability Coordinator	\$15,000.00
Planning Board	Planning Board	\$2,500.00
French Park Dog Park	Board of Selectmen and Trustees of French Park	\$1,000.00
Wetlands	Conservation Commission	\$5,000.00
Police Road Details	Police road details	\$5,000.00

Vote: motion carried by a majority show of hands.

The Moderator dissolved the Town Meeting at 8:16 pm

Total Raise and Appropriate	\$ 4,897,484.00
Total Transfer Free Cash	\$ 127,000.00
Transfer from Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 6,000.00
Water Revenue	<u>\$ 220,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 5,250,484.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Juliette S. Haas

Egremont Town Clerk