

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

May 1, 2018

The Egremont Annual Town Meeting of May 1, 2018 at the Mount Everett Regional High School Auditorium in Sheffield, MA was called to order at 7:05 pm by Moderator Stephen Cohen. The Moderator attested to the proper service of the warrant and the presence of a quorum. Town officers were introduced, the pledge was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Ninety four voters were present. The Moderator gave instructions for the meeting.

ARTICLE 1: No reports given under this Article

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, 2018 for the ensuing twelve months.

1. OFFICIALS AND BOARDS	\$ 368,634.00
A. Accounting Officer Expense	1,500.00
B. Accounting Officer	12,917.00
C. Agricultural Commission	100.00
D. Assessors Clerical	2,750.00
E. Assessor's Consulting	34,100.00
F. Assessor's Expense	3,300.00
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	4,750.00
L. Board of Health Director	26,193.00
M. Public Health Services	12,000.00
N. Building Inspector Salary	29,386.00
O. Asst. Building Inspector	1,500.00
P. Conservation Comm. Expense	1,700.00
Q. Conservation Agent	1,000.00
R. Constable's Salary	658.00
S. Finance Committee Expense	400.00
T. Inspectors' Expenses	2,780.00
U. Personnel Director	10,286.00

V. Planning Board Expense	2,000.00
W. Planning Board Wages	400.00
X. Sel. Office Administrator	62,495.00
Y. Selectmen Office Expense	11,400.00
Z. Selectman #1 Salary	5,498.00
AA. Selectman #2 Salary	5,101.00
BB. Selectman #3 Salary	5,101.00
CC. Sustainability Coordinator	6,723.00
DD. Sustainability Coord expenses	350.00
EE. Town Clerk Expense	6,000.00
FF. Town Clerk Salary	10,108.00
GG. Town Hall Office Clerk	24,941.00
HH. Treasurer/Collector Expense	11,495.00
II. Treasurer/Collector Salary	55,339.00
JJ. Treasurer/Collector Clerk	1,500.00

2. TOWN EXPENSES **\$ 255,292.00**

A. Animal Control Officer	2,605.00
B. Animal Control Expenses	1,000.00
C. Audit	8,037.00
D. Board of Registrars Salary	50.00
E. Compactor Operation	86,450.00
F. Compactor Operator Salary	0.00
G. Compactor Substitute Wages	6,300.00
H. Computer Expenses	70,139.00
I. Computer Administrator	6,200.00
J. Drug and Alcohol Tests	360.00
K. Egremont Newsletter	3,000.00
L. Election Wages	4,000.00
M. Group Purchasing	860.00
N. Geographic Information System	4,300.00
O. High Speed Internet	2,500.00
P. Email Archiving/back-up	2,500.00
Q. Historical Commission Expense	1,850.00
R. Inspector of Animals	500.00
S. Legal Expenses	2,000.00
T. Legal Fees	14,280.00
U. Litigation	5,000.00
V. Moderator	330.00
W. Public Health Services	2,500.00
X. School Committee	2,121.00

Y. School Crossing Guard	500.00
Z. So. Berk. Chamber Commerce	260.00
AA. Town Engineer	4,450.00
BB. Town Report	500.00
CC. Town Telephone	9,600.00
DD. Veteran's Benefits	13,000.00
EE. Zoning Bylaws Printing	100.00

3. TOWN MAINTENANCE **\$ 213,552.00**

A. Bldg Maint. General Exp.	16,680.00
B. Bldg Maint. Utility Exp.	31,800.00
C. Building Maintenance Wages	12,925.00
D. Maintenance Superintendent	50,000.00
E. Cemetery Maintenance	100.00
F. French Park Maintenance	4,130.00
G. French Park Trails	1,250.00
H. French Park Overtime Wages	5,406.00
I. French Park Wages	12,192.00
J. Public Lighting	5,800.00
K. Building Improvements	22,400.00
L. Police Building Expenses	4,750.00
M. Tree Work	24,000.00
N. Tree Warden	6,119.00
O. Cemetery Exp & Maint	16,000.00

4. HIGHWAYS **\$ 561,749.00**

A. Const. & Maint. Wages	5,000.00
B. Construction & Maintenance	183,500.00
C. Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	55,000.00
D. Highway Union	158,291.00
E. Superintendent Salary	64,958.00
F. Snow & Ice Removal	70,000.00
G. Snow & Ice Removal Wages	25,000.00

5. LIBRARY **\$ 36,113.00**

A. Expenses	13,225.00
B. Librarian's Salary	21,953.00
C. Library Substitute Wages	935.00

6. POLICE **\$392,012.00**

A. Chief Expenses	4,500.00
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B. Chief Salary	75,000.00
C. Collective Bargaining	269,068.00
D. Department Expenses	10,000.00
E. Police Wages-Secretary	17,444.00
F. Vehicle Expenses	16,000.00

7. FIRE AND EMERGENCY **\$102,176.00**

A. Dispatch Facilities	10,626.00
B. Emergency Management	1,600.00
C. Emergency Management Wages	2,500.00
D. Fire Department Expense	53,500.00
E. Draft Hydrants	2,000.00
F. Firefighters Stipend	28,000.00
G. Forest Fires	1,000.00
H. Street Number 911	200.00
I. Blackboard Connect alert	2,250.00
J. So Berk Reg Emergency Plan	500.00

8. DEBT AND INTEREST **\$ 104,740.00**

A. Interest Short Term Debt	10,000.00
B. Police Facility	32,400.00
C. Fire Truck	62,340.00

9. HUMAN SERVICES **\$ 31,287.00**

A. Brien Center/Mental Health	2,203.00
B. Berk South Community Center	2,000.00
C. Community Health Programs	1,250.00
D. Berk. Comm. Action Council	1,000.00
E. Construct, Inc.	1,000.00
F. Council on Aging	8,355.00
E. Egremont Garden Club	200.00
H. Elizabeth Freeman Center	500.00
I. Fairview Hospital	1,500.00
J. Housatonic Valley Assoc	250.00
K. Hospice Care	750.00
L. Railroad Street Youth Project	1,500.00
M. So. Berk. Elderly Transport	10,379.00
N. Literacy Network of So. Berk.	400.00

10. INSURANCE **\$ 569,232.00**

A. Health/Dental	249,667.00
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B. Pension	163,875.00
C. Property & Casualty	122,065.00
D. Social Security/Medicare	16,000.00
E. Unemployment	10,000.00
F. Longevity Pay	2,625.00
G. Sick Leave	5,000.00

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

12. SCHOOLS **\$ 1,604,722.74**

A. Operating & Transport	1,530,090.36
B. Capital Costs	42,365.36
C. Bond Payment	32,267.02

Holds were put on items 4B and 12A.

Motion made and seconded to approve line items not held. Motion carried by a show of hands vote.

Held item 4B: Short discussion on plans for roads in years ahead.

Motion made and seconded to approve line item 4B.

Motion carried by a show of hands vote.

Held item 12A: Questions as to costs of outlaying schools and fall enrollment of South Egremont School were asked. Motion made and seconded to approve line item 12A.

Motion carried by a show of hands vote.

TOTAL LINE ITEM BUDGET APPROVED AT MEETING \$ 4,264,509.74

Article 3: Motion made and seconded to raise from The Egremont Water Department the sums of money listed below to operate the Egremont Water Department, said sums to be expended under the direction of the Water Commissioners:

A. Water Debt	\$102,450.00
B. Water Operating Exp	25,000.00
C. Salaries/Wages	76,464.00
D. Utilities	10,000.00
E. Office Expenses	1,500.00
F. Water System Maint., Repair, Replacement, Upgrade	25,000.00
G. Audit	3,993.00
H. Insurance	17,860.00
I. Software/Engineer Design Work	1,750.00

\$264,017.00

Necessary funds to be raised as follows:

Water Dept. Revenues	215,000.00
Transfer from Water Free Cash	6,788.00
Tax Levy Subsidy	42,229.00

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 4: Motion made and seconded to appropriate \$12,000.00 for engineering required to make a structural repair to the Water Plant.

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 5: Motion made and seconded to appropriate \$535,500 to pay the initial costs of its required share of the engineering and construction expenses associated with the reconstruction of Mount Washington Road, including the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, s.7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

A power point presentation was made by representatives of CHA Consulting. Discussion ensued.

Motion carried by secret ballot 2/3 majority vote of 57 yes, 25 no, 1 blank.

Article 6: Motion made and seconded to appropriate \$200,000 to pay costs of purchasing a new rescue vehicle for the Egremont Fire Department, including the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, s7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance

with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Motion carried by secret ballot 2/3 majority vote of 79 yes, 3 no, 1 blank.

Article 7: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$52,000.00 for necessary repairs to Town Hall.

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 8: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,400.00 to replace siding on the Salt Shed and paint the Annex Building.

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 9: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to purchase a new sander/spreader for the Highway Department.

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 10: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to replace and upgrade the fuel pump system at the Highway Garage.

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 11: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$43,000.00 to purchase a new 4-wheel drive police vehicle.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 12: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to purchase a new color copier for the Town Hall.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 13: Motion made and seconded to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$75,000.00 to make road repairs to Town roads.

Motion carried by majority of 2/3 show of hands vote.

Article 14: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 received from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for the purposes as originally designated for the remediation of the playground and the oil tank at the South Egremont School to an account to be used for such purpose.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 15: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to pay to the Friends of Prospect Lake to help with the costs of weed control at Prospect Lake.

Discussion ensued. Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 16: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to update a portion of the town's MACRS historic listings.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 17: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to restore books and ledgers in the Archives room.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 18: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to the special GASB 45 stabilization fund.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 19: Motion made and seconded to take no action.

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 20: Motion made and seconded to rescind the authorized but unissued portion of the borrowing approved by the Town under Article 9 of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 6, 2014, for the purposed of purchasing a backhoe, which balance is no longer needed to complete the purchase for which it was authorized (\$14,100).

Motion carried by majority show of hands vote.

Article 21: 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. (\$150,850)

Motion carried by a majority show of hands vote.

Article 22: Motion made and seconded to approve Resolution Declaring The Town of Egremont To Be a Pollinator-Friendly Community.

Discussion ensued.

Motion made and seconded to amend the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF EGREMONT TO BE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

(The purpose of this advisory, non-binding resolution is to encourage awareness, education, and voluntary action in support of pollinators. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are vital parts of our ecosystem, provide essential services for valued crops, and thus contribute to our local agricultural economy.)

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs and fruits; and

WHEREAS, locally grown crops such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, squash and tomatoes depend on pollinators and thus are at risk; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, and the spread of pathogens and parasites; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoid and other systemic insecticides cause illness and death to bees and pollinators; and

WHEREAS, alternative land management practices are available which allow residents, businesses, farms, and towns to manage their land in ways that dramatically increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the monetary and social costs of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than costs associated with maintaining chemically-treated mono-crop landscapes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Meeting of the Town of Egremont, Massachusetts, that the Town of Egremont is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community, and that the Town encourages adoption of practices that protect and support pollinator health by minimizing the sale and use of insecticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Egremont urges all Egremont property owners, residents, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

1. Avoiding use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides on their property;
2. Avoiding the planting of flowering plants which are treated with systemic insecticides;
3. Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices;
4. Reducing lawn mowing schedules so as to allow flowering ground covers to bloom to provide an important food resource for pollinators throughout the seasons; and
5. Avoiding homeowner applications of pesticides that require a neighbor notification flag by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this Resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Adam Hinds, and State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Motion to amend carried by majority show of hand vote.

Amended motion carried by majority show of hand vote.

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2019 beginning on July 1, 2018 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 follows:

A Revolving Fund	B Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fiscal Year 19 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	\$1,500.00
Inspector Wages	Wiring, Plumbing & Gas Inspectors	\$20,000.00
Compostable Materials	Green Committee and Sustainability Coordinator	\$500.00
Recycling Proceeds	Board of Selectmen and Sustainability Coordinator	\$500.00
Planning Board	Planning Board	\$2,500.00
French Park Dog Park	Board of Selectmen and Trustees of French Park	\$1,000.00

Motion carried by majority show of hand vote.

The Moderator dissolved the Town Meeting at 9:30 pm

Total Raise and Appropriate	\$ 4,365,138.74
Total Transfer Free Cash	\$ 100,000.00
Total Transfer Stabilization Fund	\$ 75,000.00
Total Borrow	\$ 735,500.00
Water Dept. Free Cash	\$ 6,788.00
Water Revenue	\$ 215,000.00
Other	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 5,522,426.74

Respectfully submitted, Juliette S. Haas, Egremont Town Clerk