

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF EGREMONT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
7 FEBRUARY 2017**

ATTENDING: MRS. L. ALLEN, MR. M. BANDZIERZ, MR. T. BERKEL, MR. R. NOVECK, MR. E. SCARBRO, MR. S. RAWLINGS

ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS ATTENDING: Mr. Selectman Charles Flynn

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 4:07 PM, Mr. M. Bandzierz presiding. Mrs. L. Allen attended via speaker phone.**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: January 24, 2017 were approved 5 Yes, 0 No (one member ineligible).**
- 3. NOTICES:**
 - a. New Finance Committee Member: Mr. Steve Rawlings was introduced to and welcomed by the Committee. Mr. Rawlings joins the Committee following the resignation of Mr. Eric Swanson.**
- 4. HANDOUTS:**
 - a. Compensation Committee Information was distributed.**
 - b. School Committee Preliminary budget would be distributed by Wednesday or Thursday 9 February 2017.**
- 5. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORTS:**
 - a. As of January 31, 2017 was distributed.**
- 6. BUDGET REQUESTS: Received from 24th-2/7th**

SEE SCHEDULE A ATTACHED
- 7. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:**
 - a. Mr. Flynn noted the Committee is discussing opportunities with at least three entities: Matrix, Fiber Connect, and Charter Communications. Proposals and other discussions are being pursued with the potential providers.**
 - b. Mr. Flynn noted that 100% town coverage is an overarching goal.**
 - c. The timetable for actualization of service was estimated to be 18 to 24 months, meaning late 2018 or 2019 as a likely year of fiber optic service.**

8. COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:

- a. Mrs. Allen noted the committee's recommendations were developed.
- b. The committee recommended to the Board of Selectman that merit pay and stipends be apportioned from a pool for exempt employees in FY2017.

9. SBRSD (Southern Berkshire Regional School District):

- a. Mr. Flynn noted there are two candidates for School Superintendent.
- b. Mr. Flynn also noted the District is facing significant cost increases for FY2018. He gave a brief review of impending cost issues inclusive of the teacher's salary contract increase and general overhead.

10. RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUESTS:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>VOTED</u>
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NONE

11. OFFICIALS' ITEMS: None

12. CITIZENS' ITEMS: None

13. OTHER BUSINESS: None

14. Next Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 4:00PM.

15. There being no further business to come before the Committee the session was ADJOURNED: 5:15 PM o'clock.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Thomas Berkel, Secretary
Egremont, Finance Committee**

These Minutes Approved 21 February 2017: Yes 5, No 0.

**SCHEDULE A
BUDGET REQUEST FORMS 2017**

January 24, 2017

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
		\$	
Debt Service Obligations			
015710.925	Int on ST Debt	1.00	Yes 5-0
015710.928	Police Facility Loan	33,000.00	Yes 5-0
015710.929	Fire Truck Loan	62,340.00	Yes 5-0
015710.930	Backhoe	28,886.00	Yes 5-0
015710.927	Highway Truck (\$170,000)	Free Cash	
Buildings & Grounds			
015930.700	Building Improvements	70,800.00	HOLD
015192.700	Building Main General	16,680.00	Yes 5-0
015192.400	Building Main Utilities	37,300.00	Yes 5-0
015192.408	Cemetery Main	100.00	Yes 5-0
French Park			
015650.700	French Park Main	22,190.00	HOLD
015210.703	Police Bldg. Main	5,475.00	Yes 5-0
Town Accountant			
015135.400	Town Acct. Exp.	1,500.00	Yes 5-0
Agricultural Comm			
015172.700	Ag. Comm Exp	100.00	Yes 5-0
Assessors			
015141.700	Assessors' Exp	3,125.00	Yes 5-0
015141.902	Assessors' Cons	30,558.00	Yes 5-0
Selectmen			
015159.700	Audit	7,370.00	Yes 5-0
015220.711	BlackBoard Conn	2,250.00	Yes 5-0
015190.113	By Law Printing	250.00	Yes 5-0
015152.200	Drug&Alcohol Test	360.00	Yes 5-0
015155.014	Email Archiving	2,500.00	Yes 5-0
015122.704	GIS Program	4,300.00	Yes 5-0
015192.703	Group Purchasing	860.00	Yes 5-0
015155.012	High Speed Internet	2,500.00	Yes 5-0
015241.700	Inspectors' Exp	2,866.00	Yes 5-0
015519.700	Inspector of Animals	500.00	Yes 5-0
015161.702	Newsletter	3,000.00	Yes 5-0
015424.400	Public Lighting	5,500.00	Yes 5-0
015122.122	Sick Leave Byback	5,000.00	Yes 5-0

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
		\$	
015192.405	Town Telephone	9,600.00	Yes 5-0

015122.703	Town Engineer	5,000.00	Yes 5-0
015155.700	Computer Exp	50,346.00	Yes 5-0
015145.115	Computer Adm Exp	6,200.00	Yes 5-0
015195.700	Town Report	500.00	Yes 5-0

Legal Fees and Expenses

015151.700	Retainer (Fees)	14,000.00	Yes 5-0
015151.702	Legal Exp	2,000.00	Yes 5-0
015151.725	Litigation	5,000.00	Yes 5-0

Board of Health

015511.700	BOH Exp	5,000.00	Yes 5-0
015511.118	Public Health Agent	8,000.00	Yes 5-0

JANUARY , 2017

Cemetery

015491.700	Cemetery Exp&Projects	16,000.00	Yes 4-0
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Town Clerk

015161.700	Town Clk Exp	7,550.00	HOLD
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E-911

015220.704 (SA?)	Required Sinage FHA	9,200.00	Yes 4-0
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Finance Committee

015131.700	FC Exp	400.00	Yes 4-0
015940.700	Reserve Fund	25,000.00	Yes 4-0

Fire Department

015220.700	FD Exp	50,000.00	Yes 4-0
015220.702	Forest Fires	1,000.00	Yes 4-0
015220.120	Firefighter Stipend	26,500.00	Yes 4-0

Historical Commission

015691.700	Expenses	1,650.00	Yes 4-0
015697.713	MACRS	4,000.00	Yes 4-0
015697.714	Book Restoration	2,000.00	Yes 4-0

Sustainability Coordinator

015122.705	Expense	350.00	Yes 4-0
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<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>
<u>ACTION</u>		\$

Library

015610.700	Expense	12,625.00	Yes 4-0
015610.114	Substitute wages	1,104.00	Yes 4-0
Compactor Operation			
015433.114	TransStaSub wages	4,300.00	Yes 4-0
015433.700	Compactor Op	82,710.00	Yes 4-0
Treasurer/Collector			
015945.742	SocialSec/Medicare	15,000.00	Yes 4-0
015145.400	Expenses	11,495.00	Yes 4-0
015145.400*	Stipend (NEW)	1,000.00	No 6-0
Initial vote Yes 4, No 0, rescinded 6-0 and new vote recorded.			
015945.743	Unemployment Ins	10,000.00	Yes 4-0
Zoning Board of Appeals			
015176.700	Expense	100.00	Yes 4-0
Insurance and Benefits			
015945.744	Pension	156,380.00	Yes 4-0
015945.747	Longevity Pay	2,225.00	Yes 4-0
Planning Board (Initially on HOLD)			
015175.113	PB wages	400.00	Yes 5-0
015175.700	PB Expense	2,000.00	Yes 5-0
Emergency Management			
015220.117	EM Stipend	2,500.00	Yes 4-0
015220.707	EM Expense	1,600.00	yes 4-0
Highway Department			
015422.700	Construction&Main	220,800.00	HOLD
015422.117	Collective Barg	151,169.41	Yes 4-0
015423.700	Snow & Ice Removal	70,000.00	Yes 4-0
015423.115	Snow&IceRemovalWages		
Police Department			
015210.119	Collective Barg	262,196.22	HOLD
015210.700	Chief Expenses	5,133.00	Yes 4-0
015210.701	Vehicle Expenses	16,330.00	Yes 4-0
015210.702	Department Expenses	10,880.00	Yes 4-0

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>REQUESTED AMT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Water Department			
615451.115	Water Wages	70,483.40	TBR/HOLD
615451.200	Utilities	12,000.00	
615451.201	Audit	3,630.00	
615451.400	Office Expense	1,500.00	
615451.700	Water Expense	25,000.00	
615451.701	Water Line Repairs	25,000.00	
615451.703	Insurance	17,680.00	

615451.825	Outflow Meter	0
615451.900	Debt Service	104,350.00
615451.825	Software fees	2,465.85
TOTAL		\$262,109.25
Less User Fees		210,000.00
Less Retained Earnings*		31,394.00
Taxpayer Subsidy		<u>20,715.25</u>
		\$262,109.25

*Retained Earnings must be voted to be used toward 2018 budget

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 1/24/2017

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTS (Not done on 10th)

015599.215	Railroad Street Youth	1,500.00	Yes 5-0
015599.207	Elizabeth Freeman	500.00	Yes 5-0
015599.213	SBET	7,419.00*	Rescind(1/24)
*Revisited in light of COA budget request		10,378.50	Yes 5-0
015599.201	Berkshire South	2,000.00*	Yes 5-0
*Resubmitted their request. One member abstained due to possible conflict of interest.			
015599.202	CHP	1,250.00	Yes 5-0
015599.200	Brien Center	2,203.00	Yes 5-0
015599.217	Housatonic Valley	250.00	Yes 5-0
015599.211	Literacy Network	400.00	Yes 5-0
015294.700	Tree Work	20,000.00	Yes 5-0
015543.751	Veterans Services	15,000.00	HOLD
015650.705	French Park Trails	1,000.00	Yes 5-0
015171.700	Consev. Com	1,945.00	Yes 5-0
015171.701	Consev. Com Agent	1,000.00	Yes 5-0
015655.824	Prospect Lake Friends*	5,000.00	Yes 4-0
*Mrs. Allen Abstains in vote to avoid any conflict of interest			

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

015220.706	Hydrant Committee	2,000.00	
		AMOUNT	
<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
		\$	
015541.700	Council on Aging Exp		HOLD