

COOMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF EGREMONT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
9 JANUARY 2018

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

ABSENT: MR. E. SCARBRO

OTHERS ATTENDING: George, McGurn, Vice Chairman, Selectboard

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 4:05 PM o'clock, Chair Laura Allen presiding.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: November 21, 2017 approved 4-0 (1 absent, 1 abstains)
3. NOTICES:
 - a. Town Meeting - Tuesday, May 1, 2018
 - b. Deadline for Warrant articles – March 15, 2018
 - c. Post Warrant – April 16, 2018 (Sign warrant April 9, 2018
 - d. Town Election- May 8, 2018
 - e. Mr. Selectman McGurn noted there likely will be a Special Town Meeting in March addressing Broadband and Recreation Overlay By-Law discussions.
 - f. Christmas gift for our child, girl 8-10, spent a little over \$60.00
4. HANDOUTS:
 - a. Calculations re: tax rate for 2018, \$9.62 per \$1,000 of assessed value
 - b. Copies of A-2, et al (Review) (Discuss if necessary)
5. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORTS:
 - a. November 30, 2017 (December not yet received) was distributed
 - b. A correction for a school charge has yet to be transferred to the proper account
6. RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS:

<u>TO ACCOUNT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
015945.744	Pension	Wrong amt. budgeted	\$ 20.00

The above was approved 5-0 to correct a budgeting error.

7. The Chair noted that the Finance Committee's report for the 2017 Annual Report of the Town was completed. She noted that future reports will/should increase the focus on what the future holds based on what occurred in the previous fiscal cycle(s).
8. Broadband Update:
 - a. The article in Newsletter (January, 2018) provides as good an update as any
 - b. Mrs. Allen and Mr. McGurn updated the committee
 - i. The Technology Committee reviewed a punch-list they are discussing with Charter.
 - ii. Mr. McGurn noted the Town has retained Special Counsel

- iii. A memo to Charter is being developed to prevail upon them, insomuch as possible, that the Town wants a full commitment for service for all or very nearly all residences so desiring, by the Fall 2019.

9. Compensation Committee:

- a. Committee composed of Bill Tighe, Personnel Director, George McGurn, Selectman, Chuck Ogden, citizen and Laura Allen, Finance Committee member will next meet on January 10, 2018
- b. There is a salary adjustment for the Librarian pending
- c. The committee is also benchmarking remuneration for 'Buildings & Grounds' jobs

10. Police Search Committee:

- a. will next meet 1/17/2018. Mrs. Allen is covering that effort.
- b. There have been to date, some interviews, with six candidates scheduled for interviews

11. Southern Berkshire Regional School District:

- a. Bids for the repair work for the South Egremont School are high, while grants are unsecured, other sources of funding are being considered inclusive of private funding.
- b. Mr. McGurn reported that an informal survey suggested that there were several families interested in enrolling youngsters into the Egremont School upon its repair and re-commissioning by the SBRSD

12. Mt. Washington Road:

- a. Mr. Bandzier briefed the Committee on his review of how West Stockbridge utilized a "Street Scan" report to prioritize their roadwork projects. This is an independent organization that conducted an objective evaluation of West Stockbridge's roads using sophisticated technology beyond that used by the State or County. His impression was that this method eliminates opinionated or emotional assessments of the condition of roads and allows for a clean prioritization for action and expenditure.
- b. The Committee agreed that the "Street Scan" approach may well be worth any cost, and the matter was referred to the Board of Selectmen via Mr. McGurn.

13. WATER ENTERPRISE FUND:

- a. Mrs. Allen noted the Water Department's Retained Earnings for FY2017 were: \$6,788.
- b. The Committee anticipates a budget presentation from the Commissioners.

14. 2019 BUDGET REQUESTS – SEE SCHEDULE A ATTACHED

15. OFFICIALS' ITEMS: None

16. CITIZENS' ITEMS: None

17. Next Finance Committee meeting: Tuesday 23 January 2018 at 4:00PM.

18. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was ADJOURNED:
6:05 PM o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Berkel
Secretary, Egremont Finance Committee