

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF EGREMONT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
13 FEBRUARY 2018

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS ATTENDING: Juliette Haas, Town Clerk

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 4:00 PM o'clock, Chair Laura Allen presiding.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: 23 January 2018 were, upon motion and second, approved as recorded.
3. NOTICES:
 - a. Tentative date for Special Town Meeting – Tuesday 27 March 2018
 - i. Proposed zoning bylaw amendments to common driveways,
 - ii. LSGM solar overlay district and
 - iii. Open Space and Recreation zoning bylaw.
 - b. Snow and Ice budget and BOS action.
4. HANDOUTS:
 - a. Department Expenditures Report dated 31 January 2018:
 - i. shows accounts generally pacing as expected
 - ii. The line item for "Longevity Pay" is overdrawn by \$200.
5. VOTING & ELECTIONS:
 - a. Town Clerk Juliette Haas presented a request for a vote tabulating machine.
 - b. The machine represents new technology to reduce errors, improve the timeliness of vote reporting, mechanization of tabulation accuracy.
 - c. Beyond capital costs of acquisition, annual software costs depend upon the number of, and type of elections (local, state, national, special).
 - d. The purchase price of \$5,700 may be covered (at least in part) by State Elections Grant.
 - e. Annual variable costs are projected to be \$1000 to \$3,000 based on the number of elections. There are likely to be minor wage savings.
 - f. The Committee voiced its support for acquisition of a tabulator.
6. GENERAL MUNICIPAL FINANCE:
 - a. Trend dashboard from DLS (Department of Local Services) website.
 - b. Mrs. Allen noted there is some interesting benchmarking data for comparison.
7. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:
 - a. Broadband Update: Charter is working on refinements and response in the agreement.
 - b. Tree trimming and pole preparation is ongoing at various places in town.

8. COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:
 - a. Committee composed of Bill Tighe, Personnel Director, George McGurn, Selectman, Chuck Ogden, citizen and Laura Allen, Finance Committee member.
 - b. Next meeting on Wednesday 14 February at 10:00 am
 - i. The Committee considered certain hourly and part time incumbent employees and adjusted or left as is reflecting comparable remuneration given the responsibilities of the various positions.
 - ii. The next meeting is to be held on St. Valentine's Day proving the Town loves its employees.

9. SEARCH COMMITTEE (POLICE CHIEF): Mrs. Allen noted two candidates have been brought forward, each of which the search committee was confident had appropriate experience.

10. SBRSD (Southern Berkshire Regional School District):
 - a. Budget information is less detailed and the district is in the middle of contract negotiations with the Teacher's Union.
 - b. The Committee discussed an approach to and interaction with District during the budgeting process.
 - c. There seems to be a measured optimism about the Egremont School reopening.

11. VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENTS:
 - a. Call/Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Disability plan. The Committee was favorably disposed toward the adoption of a disability plan for volunteers.
 - b. MGL, Chapter 32, Section 85H and 85H ½ mandate.

12. ENTERPRISE FUND:
 - a. Water Department option for third party operation seems to have faded.
 - b. There are some capital projects that need to be addressed, among them a holding tank and the retaining wall at the plant. The plant is beginning to age.
 - c. Wage scales and hiring are on the docket for the Enterprise Fund Commissioners.

13. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:
 - a. There will be an Article for a Rescue truck for Firefighters in the \$200,000 range. It was noted that the vast majority of fire calls are first-responder medical calls, a trend which is becoming the norm in most South County (hill) towns.
 - b. Voting tabulation technology (see item #5).
 - c. Building/Infrastructure improvements are expected.
 - d. A new LAN (Local Area Network) color copier is being considered replacing old print/copy equipment.

14. RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS:

None -

<u>TO ACCOUNT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
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None

15. 2019 BUDGET REQUESTS – SEE SCHEDULE A ATTACHED

16. OFFICIALS' ITEMS: None

17. CITIZENS' ITEMS: None

18. Next Finance Committee meeting: Tuesday 20 or 27 of February 2018 at 4:00PM.

19. There being no further business to come before the Committee the session was ADJOURNED at:
6:18 PM o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Berkel
Secretary, Egremont Finance Committee