

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 6, 2017
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Flynn, Vice-Chairman Turner, Selectman Brazie,
Also present were Toms Sierau, Charlie Proctor, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Melody Lamb and for part of
the meeting Olivia Schneider(Berkshire Record) and Andrea Wadsworth.

This meeting is audio and visually recorded.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the following meetings were accepted with minor corrections:
January 19, 2017
January 23, 2017
January 24, 2017
January 25, 2017
January 26, 2017
January 30, 2017
January 31, 2017

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Andrew Wadsworth updated the Board on the Berkshire County Education Task Force data. Data shows declining enrollment continuing and increasing costs for all area schools. The data is being reviewed and recommendations to move forward will be made by the end of June. She asked what data the Board would like to see or what areas the Board would like the Task Force to follow up on. The Board asked about a comparison of administrative costs vs educational costs, suggested an operational audit on all schools with more transparency and accountability. The Board stressed the need for vocational education in south county. The Board also stressed the need for the state to support its schools, and for Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire to get together and talk about having one be an academic school and one a vocational school.

Betsy Andrus asked the Town to allow the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to put up a self-help visitor booth in an appropriate area in Town. The booth will be made by chamber members from old doors and serviced weekly by the Chamber. The Board agreed and will let her know when they have determined a good location. She also told the town about the chambers weekly newsletter in which the Town can post items of interest. The Library and the Council on Aging will be informed of this.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Yury Seagull was unanimously appointed to the Technology Committee.

Charlie Proctor invited the Board, and other interested parties, to an open house at the South Egremont Congregational Church on March 5, 2017 from 2pm to 4pm. The church is desperate need of some costly repairs that the church cannot afford. During this open house information regarding the

repairs will be disseminated and discussion will ensue on options to get the repairs done. The Board agreed to send the invite out on its email list.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Tom Sierau noted that the Fisheries and Wildlife contact for the Jug End pond no longer works for F&W.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Technology Committee is not ready to send a recommendation to the Board for how best to get Broadband to the residents. An estimate for borrowing the whole cost was obtained. An update will be sent out to residents.

The Board will review the updated Personnel Policy for action at the next meeting.

No one from the Historical Commission attended the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Highway vacancy will be advertised again in hopes of getting more applicants.

No one attended the meeting to discuss an elderly housing committee proposal.

The Board held a short interview with Abigail Rogers-McKee and voted unanimously to appoint her as a substitute librarian.

The Board approved the cold weather charge for the construction at the Mount Washington Road Bridge as a not to exceed the sum of \$6,968. Footings and part of the bridge decking have been delivered. The Board also approved payment of the charges for moving the water line from Water Line Repairs and Highway Construction. The Board will take any amount over the bridge budget amount of \$550,000, currently estimated at about \$15,000, from Highway Construction. Also to be paid from Highway Construction for the bridge will be the costs of five more environmental inspections being required by the Conservation Commission. These funds will be returned to the Highway Construction budget at a special town meeting on May 2.

FOLLOW UPS:

The Board will ask the SBRSD for the actual FY 2017 assessment.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board's next regular meeting will be on February 27 and the next budget meeting on February 9 at 11am.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.17/feb6

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.