

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 27, 2018
Time: 7:01pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Corey Wiley(Berkshire Record), Aretha Whitehead, Ludinda Vermeulen, Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Sara Love, Juliette Haas, Alex Glover, Abigail & Julien McKee, and Liz Keene.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 8 and the February 13 meetings were adopted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Town Clerk Juliette Haas gave the board details on her request to purchase a vote count tabulator. The cost is \$5,700. Juliette proposed paying for it as follows: \$3,335 from the state polling account which can be used for any purpose and \$2,365 to be transferred at the Special Town meeting from Election wages which was over-budgeted. Juliette explained that there are additional costs for maintaining and loading the ballot information each year, but those costs will be offset by shorter hours counting ballots. The board endorsed the purchase and an article will be on the March 27 Special Town Meeting warrant.

Agricultural Commission Chair Elizabeth Keene presented a proposal for a non-binding resolution declaring Egremont a Pollinator-Friendly Community. (The text of the resolution is attached.) The board endorsed the proposal and will include an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The Ag Commission will hold a public hearing in April to present to the community.

Lucinda Vermeulen and Aretha Whitehead(Greenagers) presented the plans for 8, 4x8, raised bed gardens to be built at French Park. All have been paid for with donations from Egremont businesses. 4 of them will be built higher for handicapped and elderly accessibility. The group will build a small shed to house equipment, will fence in the area and will need some form of water supply. The hope is that families with children and/or elderly, that are low income, will grow their own food supply. A paid intern will be there on a regular basis for monitoring and helping with the gardens. The planned plantings are pollinator friendly. The beds will be built by students during the April school break. The two will meet with Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Tom Reynolds on Thursday morning.

OLD BUSINESS:

The contract with Erik Josephson to serve as the town's police chief has been signed by all parties. Erik starts work on March 5 and he will attend the March 6 BOS meeting. The Board will consider a contract extension in the near future.

The Board reviewed a drafted zoning map showing the three parcels that would be in the Recreational Overlay District. This draft will be forwarded to the Planning Board for review. The Planning Board hearing for the ROD is March 19. Attorney Alex Glover, speaking on behalf of Kayvan Hakkim, noted support for the bylaw though it needs some mechanics added such as setbacks for buildings, screening, and noise control, and some form of special permit process. Attorney Glover was referred to the Planning Board hearing on March 19.

There is no new update on the South School House bidding. The SBRSD School Committee has voted to begin the process to close the school house, as well as the Monterey School House. The Board thanked Egremont School Committee member Marcella Bush for her vote to not close the South Egremont School. The Board agreed to authorize Chairman Turner to contact Berkshire Hills Regional School District to begin conversations around moving the Egremont students out of SBRSD and into BHRSD. Vice-Chairman McGurn will attend the next SBRSD round table meeting to listen as this issue is on the agenda.

The Board reviewed the draft warrant for the March 27th Special Town Meeting. Articles are as follows: Transfer \$14,700 to the Police Chief's salary; transfer \$2,365 to purchase a vote count tabulator; transfer \$75,000 to the School House repairs account; amend Common Driveways Zoning bylaw; amend Large Scale Solar overlay district bylaw; adopt ROD bylaw. The final warrant will be signed on March 6.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The Board agreed to forward the draft Cable TV Franchise License, final proof by Marj Wexler, onto Charter/Spectrum. The Board will hold a public hearing as required by Section 207 CMR 3.03 on March 24th, 10am at the North Egremont Fire Station.

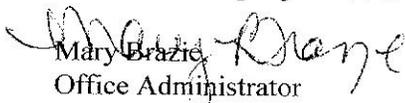
SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board approved the health insurance premiums for FY 2019 without any plan changes. Health insurance premium has increased by 4.69%, but the Dental Premium has gone down 2.67%.

The March 6 meeting of the Board will include two interviews for the vacancy on the Highway Department, budgets, and any necessary update on the Charter/Spectrum cable TV franchise license.

The Board will host an open house to meet new Police Chief Erik Josephson on Saturday, April 21.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.


Mary Brazier
Office Administrator

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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.