

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: March 26, 2018
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

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

Others in attendance: Mary McGurn, Tom Gilbert, and, for part of the meeting, Erik Josephson

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of March 14, 2018 were accepted as presented after discussion.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board received an update from Police Chief Erik Josephson. The Board congratulated the Chief on having his credentials approved by the Commonwealth. Chief Josephson noted that Chief Shaw has done a great job in tenure. Chief Josephson has issued standard rules and regulations to all officers and would like to work towards accreditation. Chief Josephson presented the Board with a request to not trade in the current Police Cruiser in July but to instead keep in fleet as a back up only vehicle. Recently there was an instance in which the cruiser was in the repair shop and the new Chief's vehicle was not available, leaving only the poorly equipped grey vehicle available for patrol. Officers felt unsafe in this vehicle without the appropriate cage, radio and lights. The Board agreed to increase the warrant article by \$9,000 to accommodate this request. The Board did not approve a request to replace part-time officers with a 4th full-time officer. Though the board agreed that there were some very valid reasons for this, it was felt that this was not an appropriate time as Chief Josephson has been on the job less than one month. The Board said to come back in October for planning to the next budget round. The Board urged Chief Josephson to remember that this is a small town department and is well liked. He was urged to take time to learn the department and the town before making changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board accepted with regrets the resignation of Genis Melendez-Delaney from the School Committee. She will be asked to put together a brief job description to give to future candidates. The Town's people will be made aware of this vacancy which will be filled by the Board and the remaining Egremont school committee member.

The Board voted unanimously to nominate John Springstube as Inspector of Animals for a term to expire on March 31, 2019.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the September 30th Farm to Fork Fondo bike event. The organizers will be referred to the Police Department for traffic control.

OLD BUSINESS:

The meeting to review the proposed Cable TV franchise license with Charter/Spectrum is taking

place on March 28 at 1pm.

The School District has voted to stop the process of closing the South Egremont School House. It is still obvious that the district is not planning a program there in that they have not declared the program.

Carm Guarda, the new Highway Personnel member, started work on Monday, March 26.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on April 9 and April 23.

BUDGET/TOWN MEETING:

The Board reviewed the wage recommendations made by the Compensation Committee. Chairman Turner has some questions and would like to see the supporting data used to come up with the recommendations. Chairman Turner would like all evaluations to include goals for employees to reach.

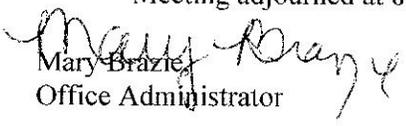
Water Commission Chairman Steve Agar attended to review the Water Department's budget request. He expressed confusion over the wages amount and any increase that Water Clerk Will Brinker would get. The Board felt the total wage request of more than \$76,000 should cover any increase that Mr. Brinker would get. The \$4,500 amount for plowing/sanding/lawn care was removed from the budget.

The Board approved the Building Improvements budget at \$22,400, in addition to the special article for the Town Hall bathroom renovations and special article for the Salt Shed Siding and the Annex painting.

The Board reviewed the special articles on the warrant. If legal the Board would like to have the two items that borrowing is being proposed for, Mount Washington Road engineering and the Rescue Truck, following the budget and discussed then one break be taken for the two ballot votes. The Moderator and Legal Counsel will be consulted.

The additional premium to increase the Police/Fire Special Risk to the maximum coverage is \$29,000. The current premium is just over \$36,000. The Board will seek information on the benefits of this increase vs accepting MGL Chapter 32, Section 85H ½ establishing disability retirement compensation for call/volunteer Police and Fire members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.


Mary Brazier
Office Administrator

minutes.18/mar26

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.