

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*

Date: April 9, 2018  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: Town Hall  
Egremont

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

Others in attendance: For parts of the meeting James Noe, Richard Allen, and Mary McGurn.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 26, 2018 meeting were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board discussed the proposed Baldwin Hill South road project with Road Superintendent James Noe. The projected cost of about \$288,000 will use all of the Chapter 90 funds and some town funds. The Board approved the request and signed the Chapter 90 request forms.

The Board thanked James Noe for putting together a priority list of road repairs with estimates. The total need for road repair funds is almost \$3 million. Mount Washington Road will need significant patching while we wait to see if the project obtains TIP funding.

Jim Noe reported that new Highway employee Carm Guard is fitting in quite well. His experience has made the transition easy.

Town Clerk Juliette Haas did not attend the Board meeting but had asked the Board to vote to approve a change in the method of vote counting for Egremont's elections. The board voted unanimously to approve the method change to the use of a vote count tabulator at all Egremont elections after May, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board accepted the resignation of Sam Hungate as a Full-time Police Officer. Sam resigned after his first day at the Police Academy. Sam will not be reimbursed for items that the Town is not able to use for a future candidate. Sam has already begun to make reimbursement on the \$3,000 tuition cost as required under the Police Union agreement. The Board is not inclined to keep Sam on as a part-time officer. The Board wants the position filled as soon as possible.

The Board voted unanimously to express it's intent to join the Household Hazardous Waste Collection program for FY 2019.

The Town has been invited to join a law suit regarding Opiod abuse. Legal Counsel Jeremia Pollard has reported that Lenox and Lee may join the suit. Egremont will keep in the loop but did will not opt into the suit at this time.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the request of Shana Stalker and Michael Kinna of 189 Egremont Plain Road to utilize a travel trailer/mobile home while they are constructing their new house. The special permit was issued for 7 months to expire October 9, 2018.

The Board voted unanimously to express its support for Berkshire Regional Planning Commissions application for an Economic Development District.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Carolyn Palmucci to the Council on Aging.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Board voted to accept the low bid at \$358,182 from Salco Construction Company for the repairs at the South Egremont School House. Chairman Bruce Turner will meet with John Salvini of Salco on Tuesday morning to sign the contract. Vice-Chairman McGurn has plans to attend the School Round Table discussion on Thursday to see if he can pin down the program at the South Egremont School. Chairman Turner suggested he ask about the prior commitment to lower capital costs to the towns and ask what the green energy credits are being used for. The oil tank at the South Egremont School will be removed asap.

The Board agreed that the March 27 Special Town Meeting was very smooth with no chaos or incivility. The debate was informative. It is hoped that the Planning Board listened to the concerns regarding the ROD overlay district and will draft a bylaw that keeps to the intent of the original draft.

#### FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

Charter/Spectrum has promised a response to the draft license by the end of April. Vice-Chairman McGurn will respond to Molly Bersani's email urging the Board to fund Fiber Connect and not sign an agreement with Charter/Spectrum. Lt. Governor Karen Polito will visit Egremont on April 24 at 1pm to hold a discussion highlighting the broadband development in Egremont.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Vice-chairman McGurn informed the Board that Emergency Management Director Ed McCormick is leaving his positions as director for other towns. The Board will confirm Mr. McCormick's status with Egremont. Vice-Chairman McGurn proposed Paul Montgomery as a replacement.

#### BUDGET/TOWN MEETING:

The Board, with Selectmen Brazie recusing, voted to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee for wages for Town Employees for the FY 2019.

The Board approved adding \$23,400 to the Computer Expenses to contract with Whalley Computer Services for 24/7 monitoring of the network and backup system, and emergency calls. Vice-Chairman McGurn noted that he wants to reconstitute the Technology Committee to educate residents on the uses of high speed broadband and to review the town's computer set up and usage.

The Board voted to not place an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to adopt MGL Ch 32, S 85H ½ regarding disability pension payments to volunteer fire fighters. The Town has a very robust special risk insurance policy that will pay a disable fire fighter \$78,000 per year for life and cover medical expenses up to \$300,000. The Board will increase the medical expenses coverage portion of the policy.

The Board approved the Water Department budget as last submitted.

The Board will meet with Moderator Steve Cohen to review the warrant on April 23.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.18/apr9

*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.*