

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: October 15, 2018
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

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

Others in attendance - see attached.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 2, 2018 were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Eric Campbell, SAI-Comm working for Verizon, presented a preliminary plan for a 100' wireless telecommunications tower on the Town Hall property to the left of the cemetery in the wooded area. The town would need to issue a request for proposals. SAI-Comm is aware of the airport flight pattern and will do its due diligence in make sure the tower does not impact that. The Board will include the provision for a public safety antenna on the tower. The range of coverage will be less than optimum because of the lower proposed height of the tower. The Board unanimously voted to issue an RFP. SAI-Comm is aware of the need for a special permit from the Planning Board.

The Board interviewed Jeffrey Spratt and Chris Colello for the position of Part-time Police Officer. The Board voted unanimously to appoint both for one-year probationary periods. Officer Spratt will be placed at Level A on the wage scale. The Chief asked to be allowed to place Officer Colello higher on the scale due his many years of experience and his past years of working for Egremont.

Steve Agar, Chairman of the Water Department, presented information about the estimate for the administration of the bidding and construction process, \$8400, as well as the estimated cost, \$50,000, of the corrosion control system needed at the Water Plant. Neither of these costs were budgeted for in the FY 2019 budget, but the system needs to be in operation by August, 2019. Steve also noted that the new operator doesn't have a truck and plow. He asked if the town would do that service for the Water Plant. The Board said no, that the water department budget has the funds to pay for that so someone should be hired. Steve also noted that the Water Department recently found out that the new operator has to work under a licensed operator for 2000 (or 1000) hours before his licenses are final. No one knows if his hours since July 1 can count towards that. This would have a large impact on the wages budget for the Water Department.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Elizabeth Marino and David Seligman presented the Board with a petition asking that the Board stop negotiating with Charter/Spectrum for broadband in Egremont. The petition sheets reportedly had 149 signatures on them.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Joan Goodkind to the Housing Committee.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Historical Commission asking the Board to require the School District to take better care with the South Egremont School House and suggesting the Board draft a lease with the school. The Board thank the Commission. Chairman Turner informed Susan Bachelder that when the issue of having a classroom at the school is settle he will coordinate with her to get the clean up in building done.

The Board has received a letter from the Emergency Management Team asking that another conversation be held with the Mount Washington Selectmen regarding the house numbering system in their town. The system has no real rhyme or reason and makes it very difficult for emergency personnel to find a home during an emergency. The board will set up a meeting with the Mount Washington Selectmen.

The district agreement requires a school in each of the district's communities unless the voters have voted to close a school. The Board voted unanimously to withhold any further payments to the School District until such time as the class has been moved into the South Egremont School House. There was audience concern over the possibility of a legal action by the school against the town.

Peter Larkin, Mass Broadband Institute representative, presented the history of how Egremont got to where it is in the quest to get its residents broadband. At this time negotiations with Charter/Spectrum have stalled over the need for additional funds for make ready work. National Grid has notified Charter/Spectrum that there are some 150 poles in Egremont that cannot have any additional cables attached unless they upgraded at a cost of \$1.2 million. Charter/Spectrum asked MBI for additional funding. MBI voted to fund half and ask that the Town of Egremont fund half (\$607,500). After a great deal of discussion Selectmen Brazie moved to opt out of the Charter proposal at this time and move forward with the RFP process, put it back in the hands of the Technology Committee to draft and distribute as required under the law and review proposals in the best interest of the town of Egremont to make a recommendation to the Selectmen. Chairman Turner seconded. Vice-Chairman McGurn recused himself because one of his wife's clients is the private provider in town. After further discussion, during which Special Counsel Bill Soloman recommended the Board issue the Issuing Authority report to force Charter to move forward, the Board voted 2 in favor, 1 recusal as moved by Selectmen Brazie. Special Counsel Bill Soloman urged the Board to hold MBI responsible for the detriment it has caused the Town and to make sure that the town gets it's allotted broadband funding.

At the request of Selectmen Brazie, Vice-Chairman McGurn agreed to step down from the Technology Committee.

The Board discussed the Fire Department's request to use the Annex for training upstairs and garage/storage downstairs. The Department had volunteers that would put in the garage doors and do the other required work. The Board feels it can make an agreement with the department as it is a town department but will check with Legal Counsel on how best to proceed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed having alternate Transfer Station Attendant Tony Valentino collecting and returning the returnables at the center. The cost would be split between him as his pay through the revolving fund and the town. It would save on hauling costs. Legal Counsel will be consulted on how best to proceed.

FOLLOW UPS:

The indoor and outdoor lead reports have been received. It is believed that the soil tests showed no contaminants. The interior has some lead paint but can easily be re-mediated. The exterior of the building also shows lead. Chairman Turner said to pay for re-mediation from the towns school assessment. The School Committee has called a special meeting for Thursday, October 18 to discuss the South Egremont School House.

The survey and the field survey has been done on the land for the Affordable Housing units. The PERC test is scheduled for this week. The Town was awarded a \$100,000 Housing Choice grant to pay for the roadway, septic and other incidental costs.

Vice-Chairman McGurn noted that the chair of the Bylaw Review Committee's are moving forward with meetings this month.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on Monday, October 22.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.19/oct15

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.