

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 11, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: For parts of the meeting Will Brinker, Ray Palmucci, Joyce Frater, Bruce Bernstein, Peg Muskrat, Amy Pulver, Juliette Haas, and Ted Remsnyder (Berkshire Record).

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded. Also audio recorded by Ted Remsnyder.

Joyce Frater explained the request for \$5,000 from Friends of Prospect Lake (FoPL) for the weed control treatment of Prospect Lake. The group pays about \$25,000 each year to treat 18 acres of the 53 acre lake. A survey of the lake is conducted first to see which areas are most weed congested and those are the areas treated. The group raised funds through membership fees, donations, and fund raisers for the balance of the cost. The group is asking that the budget item be moved from a Special Article to a line item as it has become a yearly expenditure. The Board postponed action for two weeks in order to see the financial report from FoPL.

Will Brinker, Water Department Clerk, presented another revised budget for the Water Department and explained that the Department of Environmental Protection has not approved Nathan Stalker's Operators licenses and won't until he has put in 2 years of service, which will be July of 2020. Until Nathan's licenses are approved the Water Department is required to have a Licensed Operator on staff for 3 hours per day. This was not budgeted for FY 2020, nor was weekend work by the current operator, so a projected \$16,000 overdraft of the Water Department wages will need to be covered by the Town. An amount is not plugged into the FY 21 budget yet as the Water Department is still unclear how best to move forward. The Water Department was also asked to confirm its budget figure for the debt payment and to come back to the Board in two weeks with more details and a best cost strategy going forward.

Bruce Bernstein, Chairman of the Council on Aging(COA), and Peg Muskrat, COA Coordinator, explained that there are no grants available for COA's other than transportation grants, and the state aid that the Council gets each year. Bruce noted his dissatisfaction with the current level of transportation offered to Egremont residents but noted that there are no other viable options at this time. Peg Muskrat has been instrumental in reaching out to older seniors and declined an offer to increase her weekly hours. Bruce noted that the council finds the 60-75 year olds to be the challenge to reach as many of them are second homeowners. The Council has a very active program which is admired by other towns. He noted his work with Walk Boston to improve pedestrian safety, his work with TRIAD to improve health and safety, and his work with So. Berk Elderly Transportation to improve transportation options. The Board approved the COA budget request in the amount of \$13,230 and expressed its support for all the COA is doing. Also approved was the request from Southern Berkshire Elderly Transport in the amount of \$10,587.

After discussion with Juliette Haas in her roles as Town Clerk and Board of Health Director the Board approved these budgets:

Town Clerk Expenses	\$7,000
Election wages	\$4,500
Board of Health Expenses	\$4,500
Public Health Agent	\$12,000 BRPC has a new agent starting March 2, 2020
Public Health Services	\$2,575

The Board approved the following budget requests:

Accountant expenses	\$1,500
Longevity Pay(Brazie recused)	\$3,025 The intent of this pay will be added to the town's policy.
Blackboard Connect	\$2,250
Bylaw Printing	\$100
Drug & Alcohol Testing	\$360 Amy Pulver noted that the Finance Committee approved \$500 because they believe additional testing is now required. This will be verified.
Street Number 911	\$100
Animal Control Wage	\$2,677
Animal Control Expenses	\$1,000
Sustainability Coordinator	\$350
Emergency Management Exp	\$1,600
Historical Commission	\$2,300
MACRS	\$4,000
Book Restoration	\$1,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$100
Building Maint Utilities	\$34,650
Building Improvements	\$12,000
Town Hall parking lot	\$70,000 Completion of blacktopping
	Vice-Chair Vermeulen would like to see some updates and upgrades at Town Hall such as painting and landscaping. She will compile of list of suggestions.
Building Maint General	\$20,850
Dispatch Facility	\$11,272

The Board postponed action on the following budget request:

Conservation Commission expenses as they are asking for \$1,000 for a projector and screen though the Town already owns one that they can borrow.
Agricultural Commission to find out what their plans for pollinator gardens are, including maintenance.
French Park repairs. The Board will speak with Tom Reynolds at the February 25 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57am.

Mary Brazie,
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.