

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: April 7, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present via Zoom Meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Mary McGurn, Chuck Ogden and for part of the meeting Sue Funk.

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

BUDGET:

The Board approved the following budgets:

Health & Dental Insurance	\$332,269
French Park repairs	\$14,500
Agricultural Commission	\$3,400
French Park Committee	\$1,500
So. Berk. Chamber of Comm	\$260
So. Berk. Reg. Emergency Pl	\$500
Veteran's Services	\$21,000
Cemetery Expenses	\$18,000
Cemetery Projects	\$6,000 special article
Email Archiving	\$2,880
Insurance Property & Casualty	\$122,557
Legal Fees (amended)	\$16,000

The Board approved the addition of the following sentence in the longevity pay policy "The intent of this policy is to help retain employees and to thank employees for their years of service."

The Board agreed to assess the Town of Mount Washington a fire services fee that includes the fire rescue truck as well as the Fire Chief pay, Administrator pay, Expenses, stipend, OSHA, and forest fire expenses.

COVID-19:

Chuck Ogden, Chair of the Board of Health, asked about sending a letter to Real Estate agents reinforcing the social distancing message. The letter will be sent on Board of Health letterhead. A distribution list will be compiled from Monterey's if possible, from the Multiple Listing Services, and a local real estate agent. Lucinda Vermeulen said she would secure a list of the brokerage firms.

George noted that we are all being inundated with reading materials. The most important seem to be DPH, SBREPC, MMA and DOR. Office Administrator Brazie will determine which correspondence need to be sent to whom.

There was positive reaction to the mailing to the short-term rental properties. It was reassuring to find out that at least two properties are remaining empty at this time. There was an issue that required

police intervention at one rental property over the weekend.

It was reported that people are still using the playground equipment at the park and there are still social distancing offender on the trails. With Scott Fountain back to work he can asked to play the role of support security for the park. If he needs back up on an issue he can call the Police Department. The Police Department has already stepped up drive by/patrols at the park. The Police Chief will be asked to assign a foot patrol officer to the park during peak usage times.

No one seems to know what the current number of cases are in Egremont. Chuck will follow up on this.

The Board agreed enforcement of town directives must be consistent and constant with issues in relation to stopping the spread of Covid-19.

After discussion with Tax Collector Sue Funk, the Board voted unanimously to waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, water rate with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020. A notice is required to be sent to all tax payers. The Town currently has no list of tax payers in arrears as there are really no delinquent tax payers. The Town does not have a cash flow problem.

Office Administrator Brazie was reminded to add the article to the warrant for the Ambulance Squad. She will find out from other Town's if they are support the Ambulance Squad and for how much.

BROADBAND:

Two letters drafted by Jeff, one to FiberConnect and MBI and one to a resident, were approved by the Board. Vice-Chair Vermeulen will followup with Jeff.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The disaster & recovery conference call with Votacall, Whalley, and FiberConnect was a success. All parties are moving forward with the porting over of the fiber from Magna5 to FiberConnect as soon as possible.

The Board will meet at 10am and at 6pm on April 14. The 10am meeting will be a budget meeting.

Other Town Boards are starting to move forward with meetings via Zoom so town business is slowly returning to some semblance of normal.

As Vice-Chair Vermeulen didn't get a response, George will follow up with MassDOT on the Route 23/41.

There are currently 14 names of mental health providers who have volunteered to offer informal consultations to those who feel in need. Bruce McCarter was instrumental in gathering many of the names and drafting an introductory and waiver of liability statement.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/apr7

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.