

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

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Date: March 30, 2022  
Time: 10:00am  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard members Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, and Finance Committee members Bruce Turner and Frank Peglase. Others present via zoom were Finance Committee member Dan Blitzer, Water Clerk Will Brinker and Water Operator Nate Stalker.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

Water Department:

The Water Department submitted a 5<sup>th</sup> iteration of their budget request showing an additional increase in proposed wages for Nate Stalker contributed to an error in calculation, and a final figure of \$48,474 for the new truck. There is still no estimate or firm figure for water line upgrades on Main Street. MassDOT is upgrading 800' of water line during the reconstruction project. There was further discussion about a special stabilization fund with no decision reached.

Grant Administrator:

With the number of grants being administered and sought by the Town (currently about 6 of them) and those upcoming that will be of great importance, both boards voted to approve a paid, benefitted Grant Administrator. For two years a portion of the salary and benefits can come out the ARPA funding. The Town will appropriate \$10,000. The vote was unanimous to create an additional paid, benefitted position for grant writing for a 2 year period to be reviewed at that time.

Wages:

Union employees are getting 3.9% increase plus miscellaneous other areas of pay. Most of the non-union employees will receive 4.2% with some higher increases due to adjustments in hours worked or duties. Police reform and the impact on Police Department budgets and employees was discussed.

French Park:

The Board and the Committee voted unanimously to move the \$10,000 amount for the Forest Stewardship grant match a special article. An amount of \$1500 will be put in the French Park Committee budget.

School:

The district has yet to certify a budget. A breakdown of the total showing operating/ transportation, bond and capital was requested but not received. Transportation is still an unknown as are employee Unions. Merger options, inadequate school choice funding vs actual costs and inadequate state funding were discussed.

Debt Exclusions:

The Board and the Committee voted to place two ballot questions on the May 10 election exempting the debt payments for the Fire Truck and Dump Trucks from Proposition 2 ½. The Town is financially not in need of the exemption as there is almost \$500,000 in excess levy but it can't hurt to get

these exemptions approved.

The next joint budget meeting will be April 6, 2022 at 1:00pm.

Adjournment took place at 11:11am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.22/mar30budget

*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.*