

**Town of Egremont, MA
Annual Town Meeting**

May 3, 2016

The Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for May 3, 2016 at the Mt. Everett Cafeteria in Sheffield, was called to order at 7:08 pm by Moderator Tom Gage. The Moderator attested to the proper service of the warrant and the presence of a quorum. Town officers were introduced, the pledge was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Approximately 150 voters were present. The Moderator gave instructions for the meeting.

At this meeting the following actions took place:

Board of Selectman Chair Bruce Turner announced the pending retirement of Police Chief Brian Shaw, long-time Egremont employees Nick Ball, Rosemary Besancon and Margaret Muskrat and thanked them for the years of service to the town.

Various residents spoke both in favor and opposed to a ballot question on the upcoming Egremont Town Elections ballot regarding snow and ice removal on private roads.

ARTICLE 1: No reports given under this Article

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate (unless otherwise noted) monies to defray charges and expenses to the Town, to set the salaries of elected officials, include salaries of certain Town officers and employees, debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund, all beginning July 1, 2016 for the ensuing twelve months.

Holds were put on numerous line items. Motion made and seconded to approve line items not held. Motion carried by majority hand vote.

Discussion on held items ensued. Motion made and seconded to call the question on all holds. Motion carried by majority hand count vote. Eventually original motion with budget as presented carried by majority hand count vote.

		2016-2017
1	OFFICIALS & BOARDS	\$342,016.00
A	Accounting Officer Expenses	\$1,500.00
B	Accounting Officer Salary	\$11,275.00
C	Agricultural Commission	\$100.00
D	Assessor Clerk	\$2,500.00
E	Assessor Salary	\$4,725.00
F	Assessor Salary	\$4,725.00
G	Assessor Salary	\$4,725.00

H	Assessors Expenses	\$3,050.00
I	Assessors Consulting	\$29,832.00
J	Board of Appeals Expense	\$100.00
K	Board of Health Expense	\$5,000.00
L	Board of Health Director	\$25,176.00
M	Board of Health Agent wages	\$4,645.00
N	Public Health Contractor Board of Health Food	\$6,500.00
O	Inspector	\$767.00
P	Building Inspector Salary	\$27,755.00
Q	Asst Building Inspector	\$1,500.00
R	Conservation Comm.	\$1,945.00
S	Conservation Agent	\$1,000.00
T	Constables Salary	\$545.00
U	Finance Committee	\$400.00
V	Inspector's Expenses	\$2,866.00
W	Personnel Director	\$9,738.00
X	Planning Board Expense	\$2,000.00
Y	Planning Board wages	\$400.00
Z	Sel Office Adm.	\$55,999.00
AA	Selectmen Office Exp.	\$10,900.00
BB	Selectman #1 Salary	\$5,390.00
CC	Selectmen #2 Salary	\$4,901.00
DD	Selectmen #3 Salary	\$4,901.00
EE	Sustainability Coordinator	\$6,462.00
FF	Sustainability Coor Exp	\$500.00
GG	Town Clerk Expense	\$2,800.00
HH	Town Clerk Salary	\$8,378.00
II	Town Hall Office Clerk	\$23,506.00
JJ	Treasurer/Collector Exp	\$11,495.00
KK	Treasurer/Collector Salary	\$50,260.00
LL	Treasurer/Collector Clerk	\$3,755.00

2 TOWN EXPENSES \$228,457.00

A	Animal Control Officer	\$2,554.00
B	Animal Control Expenses	\$1,000.00
C	Audit	\$7,370.00
D	Board of Registrars Salary	\$50.00
E	Chamber of Commerce	\$260.00
F	Compactor Operation	\$76,000.00
G	Compactor Operator Salary	\$0.00

H	Compactor Substitute Wages	\$4,300.00
I	Computer Expenses	\$44,848.00
J	Network Administrator	\$6,200.00
K	Drug and Alcohol Tests	\$360.00
L	Election Wages	\$5,700.00
M	Group Purchasing	\$600.00
N	Graphic Information System	\$3,700.00
O	High Speed Internet	\$2,500.00
P	Email Archiving	\$2,500.00
Q	Historical Comm. Exp.	\$1,650.00
R	Inspector of Animals	\$500.00
S	Legal Fees	\$12,000.00
T	Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00
U	Litigation	\$5,000.00
V	Moderator	\$224.00
W	Newsletter	\$3,000.00
X	Health Services	\$3,000.00
Y	School Committee	\$1,879.00
Z	School Crossing Guard	\$5,724.00
AA	Town Report	\$500.00
BB	Town Telephone	\$9,300.00
CC	Veteran's Benefits	\$15,000.00
DD	WiredWest	\$0.00
EE	Zoning Bylaws	\$250.00
FF	Town Engineer	\$5,000.00
GG	Wage Pool	\$5,488.00

3	TOWN MAINTENANCE	\$206,459.00
A	Bldg Maintenance Gen Exp	\$15,730.00
B	Bldg Maint Utility Exp.	\$39,758.00
C	Building Maintenance Wages	\$12,424.00
D	Maintenance Superintendent	\$49,379.00
E	Cemetery Maintenance	\$100.00
F	French Park Maint.	\$5,800.00
G	French Park Trails	\$1,250.00
H	French Park PT	\$5,300.00
I	French Park Wages	\$11,719.00
J	Public Lighting	\$5,200.00
K	Tree Warden	\$5,899.00
L	Tree Work	\$18,500.00
M	Building Improvements	\$13,400.00

	N	Police Facility	\$6,000.00
	O	Cemterey Exp & Projects	\$16,000.00
4		HIGHWAYS	\$504,338.00
	A	High Const & Maint. Wages	\$5,000.00
	B	Construction & Maint.	\$202,500.00
	C	Collective Bargaining	\$145,544.00
	D	Personnel Member Foreman	\$0.00
	E	Personnel Member B	\$0.00
	F	Personnel Member C	\$0.00
	G	Superintendent Salary	\$56,294.00
	H	Snow & Ice Removal Wages	\$25,000.00
	I	Snow & Ice Removal	\$70,000.00
5		LIBRARY	\$34,538.00
	A	Librarian's Salary	\$20,134.00
	B	Library Expense	\$13,300.00
	C	Library Substitute Wages	\$1,104.00
6		POLICE	\$361,216.00
	A	Chief Salary	\$73,298.00
	B	Chief Expenses	\$4,000.00
	C	Vehicle Expenses	\$16,000.00
	D	Police Wages - Secretary	\$17,186.00
	E	Department Expenses	\$9,000.00
	F	Police, Collective Bargaining	\$241,732.00
7		FIRE AND EMERGENCY	\$96,565.00
	A	Dispatch Facility	\$10,015.00
	B	Emergency Management Emergency Management	\$1,600.00
	C	Wage	\$2,500.00
	D	Fire Department Expenses	\$50,000.00
	E	Forest Fires	\$1,000.00
	F	Street Number 911	\$200.00
	G	Firefighters Stipend Program Alert-Now Rapid	\$26,500.00
	H	Notification	\$2,250.00
	I	Draft Hydrants	\$2,000.00
	J	Draft Hydrants Capital	\$0.00
	J	So. Berk. Emergency Reg	\$500.00

8	DEBT AND INTEREST	\$126,283.00
A	Short term interest	\$1.00
B	Highway Truck Loan	\$0.00
C	Police Building	\$33,600.00
D	Fire Truck	\$63,510.00
E	Backhoe	\$29,172.00
9	HUMAN SERVICES	\$24,762.00
A	Brien Center	\$2,203.00
B	Berk. So. Comm. Ctr	\$1,500.00
C	Community Health Program	\$1,000.00
D	Berk. Comm. Action Council	\$1,000.00
E	Construct, Inc	\$1,000.00
F	Council on Aging	\$5,230.00
G	Eagle Fund	\$0.00
H	Egremont Garden Club	\$200.00
I	Elizabeth Freeman Center	\$500.00
J	Fairview Hospital	\$1,500.00
K	Housatonic Valley Assoc	\$250.00
L	Hospice of So. Berk.	\$1,000.00
	Public Health Services	\$0.00
M	Railroad Street Youth Project	\$1,500.00
N	So. Berk. Literacy Network	\$400.00
O	So. Berk. Elderly Trans	\$7,479.00
10	INSURANCE	\$535,745.00
A	Health/Dental	\$252,638.00
B	Social Security/Medicare	\$14,000.00
C	Unemployment	\$10,000.00
D	Pension	\$145,729.00
E	Property & Casualty	\$105,403.00
F	Lonevity Pay	\$2,975.00
G	Sick Leave	\$5,000.00
11	RESERVE FUND	\$25,000.00
	Reserve Fund	\$25,000.00
12	SCHOOLS	\$1,594,660.00
A	Operating & Transporation	\$1,533,319.00

\$61,341.00

School budget carried by §
37 hand count vote

TOTAL LINE ITEM BUDGET

\$4,080,039.00

Article 3: Motion made and seconded to raise from Water Department the sums of money spelled out below to operate the Egremont Water Department, said sums to be expended under the direction of the Water Commissioners:

A. Water Debt	\$106,250.00
B. Water Operating Exp	25,000.00
C. Salaries/Wages	57,125.00
D. Utilities	14,000.00
E. Office Expenses	1,500.00
F. Water System Maint., Repair, Replacement, Upgrade	25,000.00
G. Audit	3,630.00
H. Insurance	16,000.00
I. Software/Engineer Design Work	1,500.00

And that the necessary funds raised as follows:

Water Dept. Revenues	200,000.00
Transfer from Water Free Cash	26,317.00
Tax Levy Subsidy	23,688.00

Motion carried by hand count vote.

Article 4: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,574.00 to pay Joe Wilkinson and Sons Excavating, Inc. in payment for Police Detail charges relating to water line replacement. Motion carried by unanimous hand count vote.

Article 5: Motion made and seconded to transfer from free cash the sum of \$15,000.00 to the special GASB 45 stabilization fund (for future retiree benefits other than pension). Motion carried by 2/3 majority hand count vote.

Article 6: Motion made and seconded to table Articles 6 & 7. Motion defeated by majority hand vote. Motion made and seconded to convey a historic preservation restriction in perpetuity on the property South Egremont Village School (MACRIS EGR. #44) commonly known as the South Egremont School, located at 42 Main Street, and having an assessors parcel identification number of Map 14, Lot 992, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a historic preservation restriction in perpetuity encumbering said South Egremont School House and building to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate. Motion carried by 2/3 hand count vote.

Article 7: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$115,000.00, as the Town's share of a 50/50 matching Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Grant to make repairs to the Egremont Village School and to vote to accept said matching grant funds from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Motion carried by 2/3 hand count vote.

Article 8: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash a surplus vehicle at a cost of \$45,000.00. Motion defeated. Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash \$170,000 to purchase a new dump truck with plow and sander for the Highway Department. Motion carried 43 - 25 by hand count vote.

Article 9: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,200.00 to obtain technical assistance for the Planning Board for bylaw development. Motion carried by 37 - 32 hand count vote.

Article 10: Motion made and seconded to accept grants in the sum of \$119,000.00 for the purchase of SCBA air packs and related equipment for the Egremont Volunteer Fire Department, or alternatively, if the grant is denied, to transfer from Stabilization Fund the sum of \$119,000.00 Motion carried by unanimous hand count vote.

Article 11: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Hillsdale Cemetery Sale of Lots the sum of \$5,000.00, to the Cemetery expenses/projects account for clearing overgrown brush and weeds from the Town Cemetery boundaries. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 12: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to pay to the Friends of Prospect Lake to help with the costs of weed control at Prospect Lake. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 13: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,000.00 to update portion of the town's MACRS historic listings. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 14: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,000.00 to restore books and ledgers in the Archives room. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 15: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,716.00 to purchase a message/speed trailer. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 16: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$64,000.00 to the Stabilization fund. Motion carried 37 - 16 2/3 hand count vote.

Article 17: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a net metering credit purchase agreement with the solar photovoltaic generating facility located at 5567 South Athol Road in Athol, MA shown on the Athol Assessor's Map as 54-23, 53-28, 54-38 for a term of twenty (20) years and to take all actions necessary to implement and administer such agreements. Motion made and seconded to table Article 17. Motion to table carried 37 - 10 by hand count vote.

Article 18: Motion made and seconded for the Town to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 18: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Town to use revolving funds for the following programs and purposes:

- A. French Park (\$2,000.00)
- B. Home Composting Bins (\$500.00)

- C. Zoning Board of Appeals (\$1,000.00)
- D. Dog Fund (\$1,000.00)
- E. Inspector Wages (\$15,000) (exception: Building Inspector and Health Inspector)
- F. Compostable Material (\$500.00)
- G. Recycling Proceeds (\$5,000.00)

which revolving funds together shall not exceed the sum of \$25,000.00, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately and to which shall be credited only the departmental receipt received in connection with the programs supported by each revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 as amended by Section 72 and 73 of the Acts of 1994 of the Massachusetts General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for all revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for such funds. Motion carried by majority hand count vote.

Article 19: Motion made and seconded for the Town to adopt an Outdoor Lighting General Bylaw, as amended on the floor. Motion made and seconded to table Article. Motion to table carried by majority hand count vote.

Total Line Items Raise and Appropriate	\$ 4,080,039.00
Total Articles Raise and Appropriate	\$ 31,262.00
Total Article Transfers	\$ 511,916.00
Water Department Revenue	\$ 200,000.00
Water Department Free Cash	\$ 26,317.00

Meeting adjourned 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette S. Haas
Town Clerk

a true copy
attest
Juliette S. Haas