

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: August 29, 2016
Time: 7:00PM
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the head table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman Flynn, and Selectman Brazie.

The meeting is recorded for the purpose of transcribing minutes. Kevin Zurrin audio and video recorded the meeting.

Present in the audience were Tyle Race, Marj Wexler, and for parts of the meeting Bill Weigle, Bill Turner, Jeff Lazarus and Jeremia Pollard.

MINUTES:

The minutes of August 8 were accepted with minor changes.

The Board voted to amend the agenda and move the Broadband discussion to the top of the meeting.

Jeff Lazarus reported that though we were on the edge of signing the agreements with MBI it has been found out that a private installer, Fiber Connect, has begun the process of providing Broadband to the “densley populated” areas of Egremont. They have completed their pole survey’s and filed their pole leases and have begun bidding the construction. This could be a good thing for Egremont as that private installer would have all the expense and risk and they are in the business of this. There are reservations though especially in light of the fact they only want to do about 85% of the town. The Technology Committee voted to recommend the following to the Board:

- 1) the Town engage a legal advisor with knowledge in the area. Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard will help in this search.
- 2) Postpone executing the MBI agreements.
- 3) Open dialogue with Fiber Connect.

The Board voted to accept the Technology Committee’s recommendation and delegated Charlie Flynn and Jeff Lazarus to work with Jeremia on this to report back on September 12.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board has not received a report from the Planning Board on the hearing held for the district bylaw proposals.

The Board agreed to re-chartering the Compensation Committee for the coming year. Personnel Director Bill Tighe will orchestrate the Committee’s having recommendation before the May town meeting.

The Board approved Personnel Director Bill Tighe’s request to update the Personnel Policy so it conforms with the Union agreements, and to his implementing procedures to make our Highway and Buildings Departments compliant with all OSHA regulations.

The Board voted unanimously to hire Brian Shaw as a part-time Police Officer.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Eric Steurnagle as the Back-up Water Operator.

It was announced that the Town did not receive the grant applied for in the amount of \$119,000 for new breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. A huge thank you was given to all those who participated in the grant application for a job well done. There were 10400 application received seeking over \$1billion in funding. Fire Chief Bill Turner gave the board the final quote for 15 units in the amount of \$119,477.69. The Fire Department will cover the balance not appropriated by town meeting. The Fire Department has already paid for the charging station. Delivery should be no later than mid-October. The units have a 15 year warranty and are state of the art technology. They are being purchased under state contract. The Fire Department will be applying for a grant for other equipment in the next round.

The Highway Laborer position has been re-advertised due to lack of response. The requirement for licenses was changed to preferable.

A quote has been obtained to resurface the Tennis Courts in the amount of \$9,940. The Board will look at funds available and possibly do a portion of the work.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The town's computer network server was infected with Ransomware on August 11. On August 15 the whole town's system went down. Since that date technicians have only been able to restore data to February 25, 2015. There is a strong possibility that they may not be able to. A plan for redundant backups needs to be implemented, as well as a plan on how to move forward with the rebuild.

Kyle Kemp graduates from the Full-time Police Academy on September 21 at 5pm at the West Springfield High School. Bruce and Charlie will plan to attend.

The surplus dump truck is going to cost thousands to repair. The Road Superintendent would like to get rid of it. The Board asked that he hold off on that, not make any repairs to it, but to get a detailed estimate for the repairs needed.

The Road Superintendent will be asked to look at trading up two old tractors for one good used tractors. A phased replacement plan is needed.

The Historical Commission will be invited to attend the September 12 meeting to discuss the issues surrounding upgrades on the towns historic buildings.

The Board would like an update on the progress of the South Egremont School.

The Board tentatively scheduled a meeting for September 7 to discuss the moving forward of the Open Space and Recreation Bylaw.

A letter from the New Marlborough school thanking the school district for finding school budget cuts was commented on. The \$70,000 found had been earmarked for a particular purpose that is now not being done. Mary will send the school the information we received regarding tennis courts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.17/aug29

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. Copies of all documents used during discussion at this meeting are available upon request. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.