

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: October 24, 2016  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: Town Hall  
Egremont

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

The meeting was video and audio recorded.

Also present were Peter and Jeannine Schoeffler, Henry Granger, Sue Funk, Jim Noe, Bill Tighe, Tyler Race, Florence Browner, Bruce Bernstein, Georgette Kinney, Eve Goldberg, Dave Campbell, Helen Krancer, Mike Bandzierz, Marj Wexler, Bill Tynan, Robin Goldberg, Laura Allen, Steve Agar, Charlie Proctor, Don Pulfer,

Peter Schoeffler read a statement re: his concerns in regards to what he says was a mistake made by the Planning Board when they issued a Form A to Mr. Rose of Tremont Drive. (Attached) It was noted that the Board of Selectmen has no jurisdiction and Legal Counsel has said that it is not a legal lot so a building permit cannot be issued.

Helen Krancer, Planning Board, reported that the Board spent most of its year working on the Village District bylaws and after the hearing decided not to send the proposed bylaw forward to town meeting as both the informal hearing and the hearing netted only negative, though valid, feedback. The Board is now working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to develop a questionnaire for Egremont residents. She noted the Form A that Mr. Schoeffler spoke of. The Planning Board has before it now 4 special permit applications, two of which are for solar arrays. The Board is asking for a revolving fund for its special permit fees and expenses. If that is turned down they will ask for an increase in their budget. They will continue to ask for funds for consulting.

Henry Granger, Cemetery Commissioner, reported that due to the dry summer there was less of a need to mow. In 2018 they see no need for an increase in funds. They hope to have the special projects work complete. Dave Campbell, Cemetery Commissioner, noted that there are still plenty of lots available in Hillside. He commended Henry for doing such a great job as Commissioner.

Sue Funk, Treasurer/Collector, said that money is flowing good. No tax rate has been set yet for FY 2017.

Jim Noe, Highway Superintendent, reported work as normal with storm clean up ongoing from a severe storm in September. Lines were just repainted on town roads. Grading is being done now that the Grader is repaired. There is other equipment needing costly repairs. For FY 18 he will be asking to replace two very old tractors with one newer used one at a cost of about \$30,000. He is also considering a slight increase in the Construction and Maintenance budget as that budget has remained stable for several years, while costs have gone up. Charlie Proctor asked about road projects being planned and noted that there are several town roads in desperate need of work. Jim said he is planning work on Baldwin Hill South and West, and OxBow. He also may move forward with hard surfacing the dirt area of Town House that has been rebuilt. The Town recently contracted to update its Road Conditions report will be helpful in determining which roads are in most need for repairs. The Mount Washington Road

project has made the Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) list. It could be as long as 7 years before the project is done.

Bill Tighe, Personnel Director, reported on several new hires this past year, the work of the Compensation Committee, the Audit of our Highway Department conducted by the Department of Labor, employee reviews, Union negotiations with the two town unions, FMLA training that was conducted. He noted he is working on safety policies, obtaining the appropriate personal protective equipment for all employees, formulating an evacuation plan, getting fire extinguishers certified, and updating the employee personnel policy. There will be no increase in his budget for FY 18.

Bruce Bernstein, Council on Aging, reported on the expansion of the senior exercise programs in conjunction with Sheffield, Great Barrington and Mount Washington, the very successful Ipad and Ipod classes held, the strut & stretch program implemented with grant funds, and the "Be Seen - Be Safe" campaign to make pedestrians and those on scooters safer. He also noted that the Council lunches have expanded to areas other than movies and attendance is growing. The celebration for Egremont's 90 year olds had a record turn out this year. The Council is also sending out calendar of events to Egremont's seniors. Georgett Kinney reported for the Council future saying that they are working with Berkshire South Community center for more senior exercise programs, are expanding the newsletter sent out to seniors, are implementing an "R U Ok" program with the Egremont Police Department. The Council would like to shift from the state funding the portion of the fee to Senior Transport program and have that fully funded through the SBETC line item, freeing up those funds for the council to use for more programs and to hire a coordinator for about 10 hours per week. The work load on the council members is growing unbearable. It was also noted that Soldier On, the Pittsfield home for Veteran's, will transport veterans and their families.

Tyler Race, Police Chief, announced Kyle Kemps graduation from the Police Academy recently, reported on attendance at different training venues by himself and other officers, reported that the Department now has Taser's and, in fact, Officer Carlson is a certified Taser instructor. The speed trailer approved at the last town meeting has been put in use in various locations around town and has proven to be very informative, such as, in one week 2300 cars traveled on Boice Road. The department has applied to get a preliminary breath test unit and also applied to get a used breathalyzer unit at no charge. There is a lot of traffic throughout Egremont, and arrests are up. He has taken over the school crossing and many parents have been thankful for that. He is looking at proposing the town adopt a littering bylaw. The FY 2018 collective Bargaining budget may go down. He will ask for the replacement of the 9 year old Tahoe which has several mechanical issues. The so-called "Ghost Patrol" has been very successful. He is considering manning it with a dummy and with an officer at times.

Robin Goldberg, Assessor, reported that the Assessors serve as Liason to the public while the consultant does the revaluation work. Egremont is currently in a revaluation year. The Assessors foresee no need for an increase in their budget. She was asked about the discrepancy between the town's values and what some of the high end properties are selling for, which in some cases has been double the town's value. She promised to follow up on that with the consultant.

Bill Tynan, Conservation Commission, noted that his board has oversight over wetlands. They have been dealing with the Mount Washington Bridge recently, and Catamount issues for about 2 years, as well as the subdivision on Whites Hill Road. The Commission deals a lot with enforcement issues. The Commission is in need of active members. They will be level funding their expense and consulting budget for FY 2018.

Steve Agar, Water Department, reported that water outflow is about 58% more than being billed for. Some large leaks were fixed which closed the gap. The Software company is unable to assess interest to late payments. There is very old pipe along Main Street and Route 23 into Great Barrington. The operator is talking about retiring next year. The Water Department has a healthy free cash figure at over \$31,000.

Laura Allen, Finance Committee, state the Finance Committee would not be increasing their budget request. The Committee is trying to steam line the budget process by asking for more details in the requests.

Marj Wexler, Green Committee, reported that the annual road side pickup was a success. The Green Committee will support a littering bylaw.

Tom Reynolds, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, was unable to attend so Mary Brazie noted some priorities building repairs that will need to be budgeted for. (Report attached)

The Historical Commission sent a written report. (Attached)

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

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.*