

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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

Present at the head table were Chairman Flynn, Vice-Chairman Turner and Selectman Brazie. Also present were Charles Proctor, and for parts of the meeting Harald Scheid, Michael Thieman, Peter and Jeannette Schoeffler, Susan Turner, Florence Browner, and Richard Allen.

The meeting was video and audio recorded.

At 7:00pm the hearing for Tax Classification was called to order. Harald Scheid, Assessor Consultant, explained the process for tax classification. The Assessors recommended a single tax rate. The Department of Revenue has not certified the values or the new growth. The Board will reconvene on November 14 to vote on the tax classification. The current calculations show a level tax rate with a very small increase in some home values. Discussion ensued about the discrepancies being seen in the town's values vs the sales prices of some of the upper value homes. These homes are a challenge to value as the purchase price often far exceeds the true value of the home.

Harald explained the Residential Exemption which would shift some of the tax burden from the low valued residences to the high values, part-time residences. The calculation is very complicated and there is about a years worth of labor intensive prep work that will need to be done. The Board will research other towns that have the exemption.

Tax Classification hearing closed at 7:36pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Peter Scheoffler asked the board to make a motion in regards to the Planning Boards approval of the Form A for Mr. Rose. The Board would not do so and reiterated that the Board has no jurisdiction in this matter. The only remedy is for Mr. Rose to request an amended Form A that removes the lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted to provide the construction supervisors license and the hoisting license at town cost to Tom Reynolds, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, after successful completion of his 90 day probationary period.

The Board tabled, until November 21, a vote on winter on-call pay for the Buildings and Grounds Superintendent who will be plowing a road route again this winter.

The Board approved placing a recycling pamphlet in the next tax bill mailing.

The Board reviewed the policy regarding seasonal employees and paid benefits. The town has one seasonal employee who works about 7 months. Policy restricts some benefits but is unclear on sick and vacation pay. The Board would like more research done by Personnel Director Bill Tighe before making a decision. The Board did feel that Scott Fountain, who has worked for the town for 19 years, was entitled to some paid time off.

Richard Allen presented plans for playground equipment at the park, to include a toddler area, new swings and a new piece of equipment, at a cost of \$27,567. The French Park Trust is paying the total cost. The Board voted unanimously to approve it. Town crews will help with installation. The Board agreed to purchase a couple of new benches for the park from town funds.

The Board appointed Bruce Turner to the SBRSD superintendent search committee.

The Board has received a request for a memorial to honor the Cliff's by planting a tree and installing a plaque on the Village Green. The Board approves the request for a memorial but feels it may be better served at French Park where there is more room rather than to locate it on to the Village Green. The proponent of the request will be asked. Charlie Flynn said he would coordinate this effort.

The Board reviewed the current policy for the use of Town Counsel. The current policy requires only chairman contact town counsel and requires the correspondence be sent to the Selectmen. The Board will add that Chairs may contact counsel only after being authorized to be so by its board in open meeting.

The Board wants to remind all of the need and reason for purchase orders. As well the Board decided not to designate any other procurement officers at this time.

The Board reviewed the Fire Prevention Plan submitted by Personnel Director Bill Tighe and made some edits to include that all MSDS forms must be in a conspicuous place with copies at Town Hall, and that it be noted that in an emergency employees should dial 911 and then leave the building.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Nature Conservancy is ready to convey the Cashin property to the Town. They have asked the Board to designate the agency they wish to hold the conservation restriction. The Board will find out if the Town can hold the CR.

The Board approved the final pricing of \$8,234 for the Indow Storm windows at the Library. Juliette Haas is pricing solar panels for the Police Station which will use up the rest of the Green Communities funds.

The Board postponed approval of the French Park sign until November 21 and will ask that French Park Committee members attend that meeting.

#### FOLLOW UPS:

The Planning Board has responded that it isn't required by law to submit a report on the proposed bylaw changes as they have voted not to send them to Town Meeting vote at this time. This was confirmed to be fact. The Board will not seek a report.

The Board has had no response to its letter to the School Committee seeking a further response to the original letter. Chairman Flynn will draft a freedom of information request to send.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board approved the carry over of two vacation days beyond December 1 for an employee. These vacation days will be used right away.

Chairman Flynn will attempt to present on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to serve as the signatory on the electric aggregation pricing. If he is unable to be present Mary Brazie will be the signatory.

Charlie Flynn reported that the Broadband Consultant is about 2 weeks away from getting the town road map for Broadband done. There is a chance that the Town may need to adopt some general bylaws relative to Broadband service.

Selectmen Turner is concerned about the progress on the Mount Washington Road bridge. He feels it may not get done this fall. There have been some road blocks. There is a meeting on Tuesday at 1pm between the Town, the Engineer and the Contractor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.17/nov8

*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.*