

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: November 20, 2017
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Bruce Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Corely Wiley(Berkshire Record), Mary McGurn, Marj Wexler, Hans Carlson, Susan Bachelder and for parts of the meeting Susan Turner and Jeff Reynolds.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 7, 2017 meeting were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 7:04 pm the Tax Classification hearing was called to order. Assessing Consultant Jeff Reynolds presented data on the current tax assessments (see attached). He noted that the estimated FY 2018 tax rate is \$9.53, up \$.19 over FY 2017's tax rate of \$9.34. He announced that the Excess Levy Capacity is \$445,490. The Board of Assessors recommend a single tax rate. The board voted unanimously in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be born by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2018 tax rate and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approve of the town's annual tax recap by the Mass Department of Revenue. Hearing closed at 7:24pm.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Marj Wexler asked about the town's policy on the use of winter salt on the roads. The Board was not clear on the policy so agreed to find out and to allow Marj to speak with Road Superintendent James Noe regarding her questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve Attorney Bill Soloman's request to Charter/Spectrum for an extension for the Issuing Authority Report to be filed.

The Board agreed that Police Chief Shaw, either Fire Chief Joe Schneider or Asst Chief Bill Turner, an Egremont resident who is a retired police officer, an Egremont resident who is a retail presence, a member of the Compensation Committee and Bill Tighe will make up the Police Chief Search Committee. Full-time Police Officer Hans Carlson asked that the Board consider giving an aptitude test for candidates. He was asked to get some samples. He also noted that he would be applying for the Chief's position.

Personnel Director Bill Tighe proposed an amendment to the employee vacation policy that would restrict vacation pay out to employees who leave for reasons other than retirement. The Board

wants confirmation that the policy conforms to federal labor law.

FOLLOW UPS:

The bids for the South Egremont School House will be opened on December 7. Susan Bachelder reported that the private fund raiser exceeded \$20,000. She proposed a "picket fence brigade" in which alumni can purchase a picket for a new fence as a memorial. The Board felt that was a great idea. The December 1 fund raising event at Kenver's will now be more of a thank you.

Vice-Chairman McGurn, as the co-chair of the Technology Committee, reported that the recent meeting with Charter/Spectrum as congenial. Both the Town and Charter have some information to gather and will do so no later than early December. As well he reported that Fiber Connect has all its Phase 1 fiber on the poles, has lite 43 homes with 83 more in place to be lite soon. Fiber Connect projects they will serve about 300 homes in Egremont. Charter/Spectrum projects they need about the same take rate to be successful. This means that Egremont has successfully supported two broadband companies and given its residents a unique opportunity. George feels that the Technology Committee should move its focus more towards educating the residents as to what services they can get on broadband.

The Town of Alford has decided not to pursue sharing of recycling and transfer station services at this time.

The USDA grant for the Water Department engineering is under review.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Chairman Turner proposed a letter be sent to the School District asking that our of respect and courtesy the Town be notified when any subject matter involving the town is to be placed on the School Committee's agenda. The Board agreed. Vice-Chairman McGurn said he wanted to talk with the School Superintendent regarding some ideas he has for the use of the South Egremont School. Office Administrator Brazie and Engineer/Architect Lyn Smith are meeting with the Superintendent on November 21 to review the plans and time line for the repairs of the South Egremont School. As well Chairman Turner feels the Board should discuss its thoughts on the merger of districts or consolidation of services. Vice-Chairman McGurn may bring this up at the next shared services meeting to feel out the other towns.

The Board agreed, with Selectmen Brazie abstaining, that as Christmas Eve is on a Sunday the second Christmas Holiday day off will be Tuesday, December 26.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.18/nov20

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.