

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: July 11, 2023  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Veteran's Agent Tom Beasley, Karin Schaeffer, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen.

Present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Dan Blitzler, Marj Wexler, Rebecca Turner, Chuck Ogden, Peg McDonough and for part of the meeting Berkshire Regional Planning Board's representative Wylie Goodman.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

Action on the minutes of the prior meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

SCHEDULES ISSUES:

The Board chatted with new Veteran's Agent Tom Beasley. Mr. Beasley, an Egremont resident, is in his first month of service representing the Southern Berkshire Town's as Veterans Agent. His office oversees financial benefits under Chapter 115 for Veterans. He is currently serving one client in Egremont. He will send the Board a list of all the Veteran's in Egremont if he has one.

Wylie Goodman presented Berkshire Regional Planning Commissions (BRPC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). (Power point presentation attached.) CEDS tracks regional economic conditions and trends and assessed economic resilience. The report noted Egremont assets as being a peaceful town, allowing open space, preserving rural quality, and maintaining access to special areas, and Egremont challenges as climate change and hazard mitigation, the need for a central place to gather, the need for workforce and multifamily housing, and the need to support agriculture. BRPC is pleased to know that Egremont is updating its Master and Open Space & Recreation Plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board met with Karin Schaefer, new owner of 190 Egremont Plain Road, to discuss her plans to make some modifications to the exterior of the building, which is the former North Egremont School house and has a perpetual preservation restriction attached to it in order to preserve its historic integrity. Ms. Schaefer plans to update windows but has found someone who can restore the current, put in some windows on one wall that doesn't have any, and would like to add 4' to the vestibule to make an office space. The restriction requires approval from the Selectboard before any modifications can be made. The Board agreed to ask the Historical Commission for its opinion before making any decision and will place the issue on the agenda for the July 25 meeting. (Note Rebecca Turner was present was unable to be seen or heard but did notify the Town that the Commission would meet to review the plans.)

The Board recognized that Ruth Silverman, currently the oldest resident in Egremont, turns 104 years old in July. Vice-Chair Vermeulen will get a card for the Board to send.

A highway employee has requested that 5 days of his vacation be converted to paid

compensation. The Union agreement allows this but the request must be presented to the Board no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. The request was presented on July 1. The Board will ask the Personnel Director for a recommendation. Town Counsel will also be asked for an opinion.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board approved the following interdepartmental transfers:

Selectmen's Expenses 015122.700	Public Lighting 015424.200	640.34
Police Chief Secretary 015210.114	Vehicle Expenses 015210.701	240.53
Fire Dept OSHA 015220.716	Fire Department Expenses 015220.700	432.90
Health/Dental Insurance 015945.741	Social Security/Medicare 015945.742	2237.49

Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen reported that it is recommended that the Board draft an addenda to the current Mount Washington Fire Services Agreement to amend section 12 User Fee so that an annual assessment will include all department expenses, a charge based on depreciation for all equipment, and insurance costs and that assessment be calculated on the basis of total assessed town value vs number of parcels. The Board discussed Fire Chief and Inspectional services, but agreed that should not be a part of the Fire Services Agreement. The Board agreed that individual fees to Mount Washington will be billed to them directly. The Board will review the addendum at its next meeting.

A majority of the Board voted to decline to accept the proposal and scope of work from Municipal Resources, Inc for a strategic plan for the Fire Department. Selectboard member Brazie abstained. The Board agreed to seriously consider placing funding in the FY 2025 for full-time department personnel. Grant Administrator Peg McDonough talked about the need for a substantial amount of data that will be needed to apply for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program (SAFER) grant application, which will pay, or partially pay, for hiring personnel for the Fire Department. In October there is a regionalization and efficiency grant through the Community Compact that the Town may be able to apply for but it would require the support of neighboring towns. Peg will spell out what data she needs and under what time line.

GRANTS:

No updates.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

Lucinda Vermeulen was authorized to set up the first meeting of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Committee.

The Board's next meeting will be Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 10:00am

Meeting adjourned at 12:26pm

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.24/jul11

*The recording of the minutes is posted on the Town's web page at [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov) for 90 days. Any attachments noted are on file at Town Hall.*