

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD - BUDGET  
MINUTES

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Date: January 2, 2024  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Select Board Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen and member Dan Blitzer.

Present via zoom were Peg McDonough, Mary McGurn.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

Annual Town Meeting is May 7, 2024.

Free Cash at \$787,000 is unusually high as is Water Retained Earnings at \$120,000. There is a balance of \$432,000 in the Stabilization fund.

Considerations that may affect the budget for FY 2025:

Personnel Director Cara Becker is putting together a time line of employee retirements for budget consideration.

Southern Berkshire Ambulance service has asked for a significant increase.

The Town is looking at considerations for moving the Fire Department towards partially paid personnel and/or a regional model.

Police arbitration has been costly and is not complete.

Salaries will be considered later in the process.

The Board approved the following budget requests:

Accounting Officer Expenses	\$1,500
Assessors Expenses	\$2,325
Assessors Consultant	\$41,500
Board of Health Expenses	\$3,800
Conservation Commission	\$1,500
Conservation Agent	\$400 (there is the possibility of a grant for this)
Green Committee Expenses	\$275
Town Clerk Expenses	\$8,500
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	\$12,310
Board of Registrars Salary	\$50
Chamber of Commerce	\$260
Drug & Alcohol Tests	\$360
Group Purchasing	\$1,310
Graphic Information Systems	\$5,500
High Speed Internet	\$4,075 Pricing will be obtained to get fiber to the Highway Garage
Inspector of Animals	\$500
Newsletter	\$1,200

Town Report	\$300
Cemetery Maintenance	\$200 The Board will ask that Cemetery Commission follow up with Ms. Parrish re: the cemetery next to the Library
Public Lighting	\$7,200
Tree Work	\$50,000
Highway Construction & Maintenance	\$210,300
Highway Vehicle Expenses	\$63,100
Highway Collective Bargaining	\$213,052
Snow & Ice removal wages	\$25,000
Snow & Ice removal expenses	\$70,000
So. Berk. Reg. Emergency Planning	\$500
Short-term interest	\$10,000
Highway Truck Loan	\$56,531.25
Fire Truck Loan	\$65,953.13
Mt. Washington Rd engineering	\$125,608.23
Council on Aging	\$21,215
Social Security/medicare	\$25,000
Unemployment	\$10,000
Pension	\$271,871
Longevity Pay	\$2,325

The Board seeks more details on the following budget requests:

Public Health Contractor	\$12,317
Conservation Commission Clerical	\$3,500
Election Wages	\$4,500
Historical Commission Expenses	\$2,050
MACRS	\$6,000 The Board questions the need for more funding.
Reverse 911 program	\$2,363 Emergency Management Team looking to possibly change program.
So. Berk. Ambulance	\$61,267 Will to talk to director about increase

Laura Allen said that the Finance Committee Expenses request will be \$400 and the Reserve Fund \$25,000.

Laura Allen will calculate how much raising \$10,000 impacts citizens by raising the tax rate.

The next budget meeting will be Tuesday, January 16 at 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.24/jan2budget

*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.*