

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD ACTING AS WATER COMMISSINERS
MINUTES

Date: January 9, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Water Commission Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Water Department Clerk Will Brinker, Water Department Operator Nate Stalker, Poly Lanoue and Ray Palmucci.
Present via zoom were Grant Administrator Peg McDonough, Chuck Ogden, Berkshire Eagle reporter Heather Bellow.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 16 meeting were accepted as edited.

BORROWING:

The Commissioners discussed a term of years for the \$2,000,000 bond for the Main Street Water Line replacement project. It was felt that a 10 year borrowing was not affordable to the users. 20 years or 29 years will be considered.

USER RATES:

Will Brinker presented a draft rate study. A debt figure for the Main Street project needs to be factored in. There are no large users so the theory of setting a rate that promotes conservation doesn't really work.

FY 2024 BUDGET:

The Commissioners looked at the preliminary budget as presented by Will Brinker. The Board felt that the water line repairs line item should not be lowered.

SANITARY SURVEY:

The Commissioners expressed concern that a response filed by Will Brinker to the Sanitary Survey reported that some items were completed when they have not been and some of them are planned to be completed. Will said that he updated the response.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MANDATES:

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough has drafted an expression of interest for the Municipal Vulnerability Program Action grant that is due the end of the week for water supply & infrastructure vulnerabilities to include hydrology study and aquifer capacity study. A 25% match of a \$50,000 to \$100,000 grant application will be required.

There is still confusion over the final vote at the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Lanoue believes that his amendment, though not the final amendment voted on, passed and is an active vote. Clarification will be sought from legal counsel.

Funds for technical expertise are needed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Commissioners will meet on January 23, at 2:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07pm

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.23/water1923

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