

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: January 10, 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, Grant Administrator Peg McDonough, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen.

Present via zoom were Cassie Boyd-Marsh, Alice Boyd, Kate McNulty-Vaughn, Dawn Lemmon, Charles Ogden, Dan Blitzer and Mary McGurn.

The Board voted to go into executive session as allowed by MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 6 to consider exchange of real estate. The Board returned to open session at 10:02am.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 27, 2022 meeting were accepted with minor edits.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 10:06am the hearing for the FY 22/23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehab program was called to order. Alice Boyd, Bailey Boyd Associates, who has been contracted to administer the grant program, noted that due to COVID issues this is a two year grant round in the amount of \$1,500,000. During this round Egremont, as the lead town, will partner with the Town of Lee. The FY 20 round is closed with 25 households being granted funding, FY 2021 24 households were granted funding with 16 still in process. This round will fund 26 households. There is no charge from Bailey Boyd for the grant writing. The grant pays for the administration of the program. It was noted that Dawn Lemmon, local administrator of the program, is working closely with the Town's Housing Committee. The Board voted unanimously to submit an FY 22/23 regional CDBG grant for housing rehabilitation and to authorize the Selectboard Chair, or Designess, to sign the grant application and associated forms.

Hearing closed at 10:13am.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to declare the Town's summer seasonal population, as required by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, to be 5000 for the 2023 summer season.

GRANTS:

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough is drafting expressions of interest (EOI) for the One Stop For Growth program and will seek approval at the next regular meeting.

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough submitted a draft expression of interest for the Municipal Vulnerability Program Action grant due on January 13. The EOI is for Municipal Water Supply & Infrastructure Vulnerabilities. An action grant is also being sought for the Blunt Road Culvert replacement project. At 25% match is required which is already accounted for in the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funds. The Board voted to authorized an EOI for both be submitted.

ARPA Administrator Peg McDonough reported that \$75,000 is set aside in ARPA funds for infrastructure grant matches. She will give the board a more detailed update on ARPA funds at the next meeting.

FOLLOW UPS:

The discussions regarding recruiting Fire Department members are ongoing. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen felt that regionalization should be prioritized. Board members will support this at the next Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Response Team meeting. Grant Administrator Peg McDonough said that the Fire Department planning grant for which the Town expressed an interest under the One Stop program last year can be resubmitted this year. It may be time to budget for the hiring of Fire Department personnel.

The Town of Mount Washington still has not submitted full payment for fire services for FY 2023. Fire Chief Joe Schneider has fulfilled the data request from the Mount Washington Selectboard. There has been no further follow-up. Chairman McGurn has spoken with Representative “Smitty” Pignatelli regarding the fire services issues with Mount Washington as much of the land in Mount Washington is public lands.

The Regional School District Planning Board plans to submit town meeting warrant articles to town’s in early February.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Board will begin meeting every other Tuesday on January 17 at 10:00 am to review FY 2024 budget requests. Town Meeting is May 2, the deadline for warrant articles is March 17, and the warrant has to be finalized on April 11 for posting no later than April 18.

The Board will meet in regular session on Tuesday, January 24 at 10:00am.

The Board will meet on January 17 in closed session to review the dam agreement and discuss the Police Department wage proposal.

Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen reported that the Police Department has overspent its vehicle repairs/expenses budget. Along with the unexpected high costs of fuel over the last year, there have been major repairs on the cruiser that would have been traded in by now if the Town was able to obtain its new cruiser. A transfer from the Reserve Fund will be sought to cover expenses to the end of the year. She asked if the Department was still moving forward purchasing body cameras. They are very costly. A grant may be sought to cover the costs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

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*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.*