

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: January 24, 2023
Time: 9:40 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, for part of the meeting Personnel Director Cara Becker and Police Union Steward Joe Kozlowski.

Present via zoom were Chuck Ogden, Peg McDonough, Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn.

A motion was made by Selectperson Brazie and seconded by Vice-Chair Vermuelen to go into Executive Session as allowed by MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 2 for strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining. Discussion ensued over the suitability of a closed session. It was decided to delay discussion of the topic until such time as legal counsel could be consulted about the suitability of having this discussion in a closed session. The roll call vote to go into executive session was McGurn present, Vermeulen abstaining, Brazie nay. Executive session was not held.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 10 and January 17 meetings were accepted with minor edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board unanimously approved the request from Friends of Prospect Lake to hold its annual Tag Sale at the Town Hall parking lot again on August 26 and 27, 2023.

The Board voted unanimously to declare as surplus the following tires which will be advertised to be sold by sealed bid to the highest bidder.

- 4) Pick-up/Light Truck tires: LT 265/70R17
- (4) Pick-up/Light Truck tires: LT 245-75R17
- (4) Front Tires for a John Deere Backhoe: 14 17.5 on 8 hole rims

It was noted that the transportation van has new snow tires. The Board would like to assure that those tires are returned to Egremont for safe storage to be reused the following year.

GRANTS:

The Board voted unanimously to authorize Grant Administrator Peg McDonough to apply for a District Local Technical Assistance Grant from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to conduct a wage/salary survey.

The Board voted unanimously to authorize Peg McDonough to file expressions of interest under the One Stop For Growth Program as listed below.

- MassWorks: \$325,000 for Building & Grounds Building
- Rural & Small Town Development: Site suitability for affordable housing on town owned land.
- MA Downtown Initiative: Assess municipally owned and supported buildings

The Board awaits a response from the Prospect Lake Dam owner on the draft agreement for the town to apply for funds to repair the dam.

ARPA Administrator Peg McDonough reported that there is about \$50,000 left to allocate by December 2024. There is also \$75,000 set aside for the town's share of the Blunt Road Culvert replacement.

Peg McDonough has submitted an expression of interest to the Municipal Vulnerability Action Grant Program for Water Department engineering studies, dam design, hydrology and other studies.

FOLLOW UPS:

Chairman McGurn is meeting with Egremont Fire Chief Joe Schneider and Great Barrington Fire Chief Charles Burger in the next week to talk about recruitment and regionalization.

There has been no further contact with Mount Washington town officials regarding fire services nor has the Town of Mount Washington paid the balance due for fire services.

There is currently no new update on the reconstruction project on Main Street.

The Regional School District Planning Board has finally realized that any vote on a merger of the districts will have to be held at Special Town Meetings, likely in August or September of 2023. There is a "name the district" survey being circulated by some town's. The Egremont members of the Planning Board are of one mind and are being essentially ignored. A recent visioning session for all 8 towns was attended by only 40 people.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.23/jan24

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.