

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

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Date: January 27, 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, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen, Poly Lanoue and Ray Palmucci.

Present via zoom were Grant Administrator Peg McDonough.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 9 meeting were accepted as edited.

NEW BUSINESS:

Quotes have been received from J.H. Maxymillian for capping of the old water main in two locations and for finding and repairing a leak on the driveway to the plant. The capping quote is \$13,400 while the leak quote is \$4,880 for labor for one 8-hour day. It is estimated that two days may be needed for the finding the leak and repairing it. The cost of materials is hard to determine until the leak is found and the area excavated. Nate will following up with some questions for the contractor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough has filed an expression of interest for the Municipal Vulnerability Program Action Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for preliminary engineering studies for the Water Department as outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan, as well as a mapping of the surrounding water protection lands. The 25% match is in the ARPA funds. The deadline for the grant application is sometime in March.

The Commissioners have yet to determine a term of years for the \$2,000,000 bond for the Main Street Water Line replacement project, though all agree the user rate would be unacceptably high for a 10-year term.

The final Water Department budget awaits a decision on wage increases. Wage increases should be established by mid-February.

The outcome of the rate study conducted by Will Brinker shows that the base rate should increase from \$98.50 per month to \$113.50 based on an estimate of the budget including estimated debt.

Aquarion has notified Chairman McGurn in an email that they would offer the Town \$1 for the Water Department. It was agreed that this took the issue of the sale of the department off the table at this time.

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough is still seeking funding for professional consulting to help the Board with the mandates from the November, 2022 Special Town Meeting.

Coming up this summer will be a grant opportunity from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to pay for an Asset Management Plan.

Will Brinker presented the updated response to the DEP Sanitary Survey which notes that some of the items previously reported as completed have not been completed. In regards to the turbidity meter an engineering statement is needed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Commissioners will meet on February 15 at 10:00am. Agenda items will include Annual Statistical Report due March 31, Water Agency Response Network, Water Department staffing.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56pm

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.23/water12723

*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.*