

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD ACTING AS WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

Date: February 15, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present in-person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Selectboard member Mary Brazie, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen, Water Operator Nate Stalker, Water Clerk Will Brinker, MJ Marx, Poly Lanoue.

Others participating via zoom: Grant Administrator Peg McDonough.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 19 meeting were accepted as edited.

NEW BUSINESS:

Will Brinker will complete the multi section Annual Statistical Report that is due March 31, 2023.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to join the Mass Water Agency Response Network (WARN) which provides mutual aid when a town is need. The Town holds memberships with some of the agencies that will respond to calls.

Currently the Water Operator works 30 regular hours, and would normally get paid for every other weekend. Currently as there is no secondary operator the Water Operator is doing all weekends. The Water Clerk works 10.5 hours. The Town has advertised unsuccessfully for a 19 hour operator trainee. The Board agreed to increase the hours of the Water Trainee to 30 and to make this a benefitted position that, in a year or so, will take over the duties of the Water Clerk as well as be the secondary and back up operator. The Town will pay for all licensing.

Tighe & Bond has given the Town a quote of \$350,000 to investigate drilling a well for use as a back up water supply. This estimate does not include drilling the well. This will not be a priority but may be considered in the future, as well as a physical connection to the Great Barrington Water Supply.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Maxymillan crew chief has clarified that it cannot pin down costs for the repair of the water line leak in the driveway to the water plant until it has dug the leak up. The Commissioners voted to move forward with the capping of the old main and the repair of the leak in the driveway and accepted the proposal.

After discussion, the Board voted to move forward in December of 2023 with a 20 year bond for the \$2,000,000 Main Street water line repair project. With the interest due on the short-term note plus the interest due on the first year of the 20 year bond the budget will include a total debt payment of \$134,000.

The budget is complete with exception of wages. The Commission may wish to have an appraisal done on the Water Department. This could be made a part of a grant application for an Asset Management Plan.

With the projected budget, water use rates will increase to an average of \$119, subject to change.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Commission signed the February user bills commitment and approved an abatement on one account that was double charged in the amount of \$98.50.

Will Brinker announced that the Water Department's new truck is supposed to arrive this week.

The next meeting will be March 10 at 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.23/feb15water

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.