

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: May 30, 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, Finance Committee members Laura Allen and Dan Blitzer, and for parts of the meeting Police Chief Jason LaForest, Part-time Police Officer candidate Lauren Nelson and Juliette Haas.

Present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Juliette Haas, Grant Administrator Peg McDonough, Marj Wexler, Board of Health Chair Chuck Ogden.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 10 and May 16 meetings were accepted with minor edits.

SCHEDULES ISSUES:

The Board interviewed Lauren Nelson for the position of Part-time Police Officer. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Nelson as a part-time Police Officer and then later in the meeting amended the vote to include to pay Ms. Nelson at level A on the Union Pay Scale.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to make the following appointments to the Council on Aging for one-year terms.

Bruce Bernstein, Associate member  
Georgette Kinney  
Linda Warner  
Pamela Knowles  
Donna Bersch-Gordon  
Robin Goldberg  
JoAnn Rock

In response to a question, it was stated that the adult exercise/playground equipment for French Park was paid for by an anonymous donor.

The Board unanimously voted to approve the request of Catamount Ski Resort for a special wines/beer liquor license for July 22 and 23. The serving of beverages will be outside the area designated by Catamount Ski Resort's annual liquor license.

The Board discussed planning for the Remarks & Refreshments event with Senator Mark and Representative Pignatelli scheduled for June 5 at 9am. Vice-Chair Vermeulen will coordinate with the parties. All Town Officials will be invited and urged to send at least the Chair.

Chairman McGurn asked that Town Officials be reminded about procurement guidelines and the fact that the Town has a Chief Procurement Officer, state guidelines and exemptions to the procurement

laws.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Board approved an interdepartmental transfer from Interest Short-term to Rescue Truck Debt in the amount of .32 cents.

The Mount Washington Road engineers have reported that in looking at easements, MassDOT has questioned the need for Article 97 relief, which is generally needed when recreation lands are used for other purposes. It is felt that because the lands are water protection and not recreation then Article 97 relief should not be needed. Engineering/planning for Phase two of the reconstruction project is going to begin soon. In really good news, MassDOT has agreed that the bridge near Farm Lane that needs to be replaced soon rather than later is to be fully funded by MassDOT, including engineering, which will save the Town's hundreds of thousands of dollars if not millions.

There are vacancies on the Agricultural Commission, Historical Commission and Finance Committee, as well as the position of Town Historian. The Historical Commission has informally put forth Beth Wood as a member but was worried about a conflict as she is contracted with the Town to update the MACRIS. Such a conflict can be dealt with by disclosure and recusal. The Board agreed to ask Beth Wood if she would be interested in holding the position of Town Historian. Members for other the other vacancies will be sought.

#### GRANTS:

Juliette Haas presented a plan to apply for a \$182,181 Green Communities grant to fund a heating system at Town Hall. The town utilized Green Communities grants in the past to fund energy efficiency upgrades and tankless water heaters. The total cost of the system is approximately \$245,181. The Town is eligible for a \$63,000 incentive from National Grid. There will be no cost to the Town. The Board voted unanimously to approve moving forward with an application for a Green Communities grant to pay for a heat pump system at Town Hall.

Peg McDonough reported that the One Stop For Growth, Small Rural Towns grant for the buildings & grounds and transportation buildings is due on June 1. The total grant application will be approximately \$287,400. The Town's share of \$275,000 exceeds the required 25% match.

Peg McDonough asked that the next Water Commission meeting agenda include discussion of grants/loans from the United States Department of Agriculture.

A discussion of grants for the Fire Department could take place in the near future.

#### FOLLOW UPS:

The Board was reminded that it has Police Union arbitration on June 6 at 10:00am.

Chairman McGurn will follow up with the Town of Mount Washington on their failure to pay the total fire services fee assessed. Fire Chief Joe Schneider has asked that the Town of Mount Washington not reappoint him as their Fire Chief. This will not effect services provided.

#### SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

It was agreed to ask Larkin Ltd to move forward with the original design for the new Town Hall sign as their redesigns were not satisfactory.

It was noted that the Housing Committee feels a little left out of the loop on planning for housing

grants, etc. Misinformation was given to the Committee, which may have led to their discontent. The Board will be more cognizant of their role.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.23/may30

*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.*