

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: October 17, 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, Board of Health Chairman Charles Ogden, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen, Town Clerk Juliette Haas, Susan Bachelder, Dave Katzenstein, and for part of the meeting Richard Allen. Present via zoom were Susan Barkin, Mary McGurn, James DiPisa, Dan Blitzler, Peg McDonough, Doug Mishkin, Marj Wexler.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board interviewed Susan Barkin for the position of Van Driver. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Susan Barkin as a part-time Van Driver as per the recommendation of Personnel Director Cara Becker.

CITIZENS:

Susan Bachelder asked that the following two items be placed on the agenda for the October 31 Select Board meeting.

- 1 - Announcement of Child Care at 9:30am for the Special Town Meeting. As the meeting is this coming weekend the Board authorized her to send out a detailed notice regarding this service.
- 2 - Main Street reconstruction project infringement on the Village Green and damage to trees on the green and abutting properties. This being addressed already by the Tree Warden.

Richard Allen asked that the Board place on the agenda for the October 31 meeting discussion of protective barrier around the French Park Pickle ball Court.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Town received one proposal for administrative services for the FY 22/23 Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehab Program from Bailey Boyd Associates who has administered the program for Egremont over the past 3 years. The cost to administer the \$1,500,000 grant which was awarded to Egremont and Lee is \$195,000. Those funds are a part of the grant award so there are no funds being spent by the Town. There are 28 Egremont homes on the waiting list for the zero % forgivable loans that are awarded under the program. The Board voted unanimously to award the contract to Bailey Boyd and Associates and to sign the contract.

The Board unanimously approved a sign for the Adult Outdoor Exercise equipment at French Park suggesting that the proposed wording of Adult Playground be changed to Outdoor Exercise.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board again deferred discussion regarding the borrowing terms for the Mount Washington Road engineering.

The Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment to Section 12 USE FEE of the Mount Washington Fire Services Agreement. The amendment, along with an invoice for the FY 2024 annual service fee in the amount of \$42,390, will be forwarded to the Mount Washington Select Board and Finance Committee.

The Egremont Historical Commission has reported to the Board that the owner at 190 Egremont Plain Road may have done more work on her property in violation of the Preservation Restriction, including removal of the fence. The property owner has noted that the fence was not there but there are plans to replace it. The Board agreed to draft a letter to the property owner thanking her for her email and her acknowledgment of the preservation

restriction and noting that the Select Boards plans to enforce the restriction.

The Egremont Historical Commission has expressed its concern in a letter to the Board about collaboration between the Board and their feeling that they were not given enough time to respond to a recent issue that was on the Select Board's agenda. The situation in question was unique in that it came to the Board's attention when the time frame for the issuance of a building permit was nearly at its end.

The Board reviewed plans for the October 21 Special Town Meeting. As Egremont's elected Moderator is out of the country at the time of the meeting a temporary Moderator must be elected from the floor. The Town Clerk will call the meeting to order and proceed with the election of a temporary Moderator. The amounts in Articles 1 and 2, \$29,000 and \$10,000 respectively, will be raised and appropriated through taxation. There will be no motion forthcoming from the Town on Article 3 which was to change the name of the Selectmen to Select Board in the Town's General Bylaws as it is felt that this will be made clear when the Bylaw Review Committee brings forth edits to the General Bylaws to be approved at a future town meeting. Article 4, the school district merger question, has to be a paper ballot. Voters will be given the ballot as they are checked against the voters list at the time of voting.

#### GRANTS:

The Board voted unanimously to authorize that a grant application for the Green Communities program be filed in the amount of \$200,000 for an upgrade to the Town Hall heating system.

It was announced that the Town did not receive the One Stop For Growth grant for the Buildings & Grounds building. As this is considered a high priority other grants will be sought or the Board may consider voting the additional the funds needed at the Annual Town Meeting.

A Community Compact efficiency and regionalization grant for a shared Conservation Agent is being considered.

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough will discuss with the Board at its next meeting a possible application for a Transportation Grant through the Mass Association of Councils on Aging.

#### SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

The next meeting will be October 31, at 10am.

The All-Boards meeting is scheduled for November 7, at 5:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27am

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.*