

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: October 18, 2022  
Time: 10:00am  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard members Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Water Commissioner Ray Palmucci, Water Study Group members Tom Berkel, Poly Lanouse, and Bob Noonan, and Finance Committee Chairman Laura Allen.

Present at the meeting via zoom were Chuck Ogden, Dan Blitzler, Juliette Haas, Marj Wexler, Joyce Frater, Peg McDonough, Mary McGurn and, for a short time, Attorney Lori Robbins and Fire Chief Joe Schneider.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 4 meeting were accepted as edited.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Selectboard discussed the request from Attorney Lori Robbins office asking the town to release its right of first refusal on 5.7 acres of land currently taxes as Chapter 61A owned by Beatric Holdings at 91 Blunt Road. The land is inaccessible and landlocked and will be sold to the neighbor as a buffer from any future development. Though Vice-Chair Vermeulen would like to see the property remain protected, the Town does not have the legal right to require that unless it exercises it's right of first refusal and goes to Town Meeting to purchase the property. The current owners are paying roll-back taxes. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission have both previously voted to recommend the Town release its right of first refusal. The Board voted unanimously to release the towns right of first refusal.

The Board scheduled the annual all-boards meeting for November 29, 2022 at 6:00pm via zoom.

The Board announced the town's official designation as a Municipal Vulnerability Program Community. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Peg McDonough as the Project Coordinator. The Core Team can reconvene to make updates and edits to the Plan. A letter of appreciation will be sent to the Core Team.

The Board voted unanimously to sell surplus items to highest bidders as noted below.

2016 Police Cruiser	\$1,880	to Ringwood Motors
2022 Ford Truck Bed	\$1,000	to Paul Montgomery
Asphalt Spreader	\$1,234.56	to Tyler Race

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the job description form the Water Operator Trainee as drafted by Personnel Director Cara Becker. It was noted that no feedback was given by anyone in the Water Department after more than one request.

Juliette Haas presented the Board with a proposal from Hampshire Power in which the town can

save 10% on 6 electric bills under a 20 year solar net metering contract. Town Meeting has authorized the Board to sign such 20 year agreements. The Town currently in a 20 year solar net metering contract with NuGen for the Water Plant, Town Hall and Street Lights. Though the annual savings for the other 6 town electric accounts would only be about \$650 it was felt the town's using renewable energy to save money would should the town's support for renewable energy. The Board voted unanimously to sign the contract.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve and signed a contract with Tough Stuff Recycling for the mattress recycling program. Residents will continue to be charged \$50 for mattresses brought the Transfer Station. Curbside pick up is available but at a cost of \$65 to the resident.

Fire Chief Schneider informed the Board that the new Fire Truck was going to cost \$410,415 instead of the approved \$315,000. Delivery would be 635 days from the signing of the contract. There could be some minimal savings for pre-payment. This new quote is Rosenbauer for a special designed, smaller truck body that will still carry the amount of water needed. The Town has purchased two fire vehicles from Rosenbauer in the past.

Fire Chief Schneider reported that he did meet with Mount Washington Town Officials to review his duties as Fire Chief, inspection services and fees, recruitment and equipment needs going forward. There was no discussion about the fire services fee owed to the Town of Egremont.

Although the Water Study Group made no recommendation about which option to choose, it identified three distinct tracks requiring immediate decision points: 1. Keep and invest significant monies in the Water Enterprise Fund, 2. Continue serious exploration of a change of management/control (ie sale), 3. Do nothing. These tracks were driven by three criteria restated at the meeting: 1. What is the best way to manage the water resource going forward, 2. What is the best outcome for the Water Enterprise Fund customers, 3. What is the best result for Egremont taxpayers. Peg McDonough noted that there are grant and loan funds available to Water Departments for engineering and repairs. The Board agreed to continue discussion about possible articles on the November 14 Special Town Meeting at a meeting on October 25 at 10am.

#### FOLLOW UPS:

This week along Main Street in South Egremont borings continued and drainage work may have begun near the intersection of Route 41.

The Regional School District Planning Board, its request for funds, and the request from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to step back from the consolidation planning process will be discussed at the October 25 meeting.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will hold a special meeting on October 25 to finalize the November 14 Special Town Meeting warrant. The next regular meeting will be November 1.

The Board agreed that there was no parking issue at French Park for the Tennis Courts or the proposed Pickleball Court because users can park in the main parking lot and walk over to the Courts if there isn't room in the small parking lot near the Tennis Courts.

Vice-chair Vermeulen reported that she asked the Town Clerk to research how the Selectmen can become the Selectboard. Selectperson Brazie noted that she had already researched this and until the

legislature changes the statute legally its Selectmen, though town's with Charter's could vote to change their Charter's and Town's without, such as Egremont, can choose to use Selectboard.

Adjournment took place at 12:21pm.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.23/oct18

*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.*