

Attest.
A true copy.
Juliette S. Haas
Egremont
Town Clerk

Town of Egremont, MA

Special Town Meeting

November 14, 2022

The Egremont Special Town Meeting of November 14, 2022, held at the Mount Everett High School Auditorium, 491 Berkshire School Road, was called to order at 6:04 pm by Moderator Stephen Cohen.

Moderator Cohen attested to the proper service of the warrant, noted the presence of a quorum, gave instructions for the meeting and introduced Town Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence honoring those who have served our country in the military and on the frontlines was observed.

ARTICLE 1: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$96,000.00 for additional costs for a new Fire Truck.

Vote taken: Motion passed by a majority show of hands.

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$29,450.00 for a Web Page Administrator.

There was a short discussion period.

Vote taken: Motion passed by a hand count of 37 In Favor and 25 Opposed.

ARTICLE 3: Tom Berkel of the Egremont Finance Committee and the Egremont Water Study Group gave a report. A lengthy question and discussion period followed.

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Select Board, or its designee(s), to explore options for the future management of the Water Plant along with its customers, by means of the following courses of actions:

1. Revoke the provisions of Chapter 44 section 53F1/2 of Massachusetts General Laws, thereby ceasing water pumping and delivery accounting as an

"enterprise fund" effective FY 23 and transfer any balance, assets, debt and liabilities to the General Fund and to other appropriate account groups, and

2. Authorize the Select Board to engage in the discussion of and a recommendation for future options to manage the water management service of the Town including: joint operations with another municipality, water management services, technical expertise consulting, personnel services, sale of the company to a private water entity and

3. Develop a possible new structure for the management of the water company by the Town, and

4. Develop a schedule for the necessary Capital Expenditures and debt to be incurred by the Town for the proper functioning of the water company in the next 5-10 years and

5. To amend the Water Department Budget as voted at the May 3, 2022 Annual Town Meeting to include item L Technical Support/Engineering Services and to transfer from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$109,719.00 and raise from water department revenue the sum of 4,000.00, and with a tax levy subsidy of \$136,281, for a total of \$250,000, or any other amount, and/or to seek grants to offset some of the cost, or any other action relative thereto.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The Moderator felt Section 5 should be voted upon separately as that is the only part of the article which speaks to funding.

First amendment:

Motion made and seconded to amend Article 4 deleting in its entirety and substituting the following: "The Selectboard or its designees be authorized and directed to explore the sale of the water department."

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Vote taken on the first amendment: first amendment passed by a hand count vote of 35 in favor and 30 opposed.

Second Amendment:

Motion made and seconded to add the following to amended Article 4:

That the Selectboard or its designees be authorized and directed to explore the sale of the water department and to engage in the discussion of and a recommendation for future options, to manage the water management service of the Town including: joint operations with another municipality, water management services, technical expertise consulting, personnel services, and a possible new structure for the management of the water company.

Vote taken on second amendment: second amendment passed by a hand count of 51 in favor and 5 opposed.

Vote taken on entire article with both amendments: unanimous in favor.

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. Meeting dissolved at 8:09 pm.

Total Transfer from Free Cash: \$125,450.00

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette S. Haas
Egremont Town Clerk

Vote taken: Motion passed by a hand count of 37 in favor, 26 opposed.

Article 21: Motion made and seconded to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges.

Vote taken: motion passed by a unanimous show of hands.

Article 22: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 to purchase a police cruiser for the Police Department.

Vote taken: motion passed by a unanimous show of hands.

Article 23: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to the special GASB 45 stabilization fund (for future retiree benefits other than pension).

Vote taken: motion passed by a majority show of hands.

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the Town Meeting. Motion passed. The Moderator dissolved the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Total Raise and Appropriate	\$ 5,822,850.00
Total Transfer Free Cash	\$ 325,000.00
Total Borrow	\$ 2,000,000.00
Transfer from Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 3,450.00
Transfer from Water Dept. Revenue	\$ 228,810.00
Water Department Tax Subsidy (R&A)	\$ 0.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 8,380,052.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Juliette S. Haas, Egremont Town Clerk