

WARRANT
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE SS.

TO: James Olmsted, Constable of the Town of Egremont,
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Egremont qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the North Egremont Fire Station, 175 Egremont Plain Road, North Egremont, on Tuesday, the 14th day of May, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. in the forenoon, and then and there to bring their ballots to the election officers for the election of the following Town and District Officers:

One Assessor for three years,
One Cemetery Commissioner for three years,
One Library Trustee for three years,
One member of the Planning Board for five years,
One Associate member of the Planning Board for two years,
One member of the Select Board three years,

and to choose such other officers as towns are required by law or have a right to choose.

All of the above named officers will be voted upon an official ballot to be furnished at the polling place by the election officers. The questions below will also be voted upon the official ballot to be furnished at the polling place by the election officers.

Shall the Town of Egremont be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a Fire Truck?

The polls will open at 10:00 A.M, and shall close at 7:00 P.M.

And you are requested to warn said election by posting copies of this Warrant in four or more public places in said Town, fourteen days at least, before the time of holding same.

You are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Mount Everett High School Cafeteria, Sheffield MA, on Tuesday, the 7th day of May, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. and then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To hear the reports of any officers, committee or committees.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
Town of Egremont
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ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, monies, or any other amounts, to defray charges and expenses to the Town, to set the salaries of elected officials, including salaries of certain Town officers and employees, debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund, all beginning July 1, 2024 for the ensuing twelve months.

	VOTED <u>2023-2024</u>	PROPOSED <u>2024-2025</u>
1. OFFICIALS AND BOARDS	\$ 513,387.00	\$ 607,774.00
A. Accounting Officer Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00
B. Accounting Officer	16,104.00	16,861.00
C. Agricultural Commission	800.00	250.00
D. Administrative Assistant	0.00	20,827.00
E. Assessors Clerical	3,886.00	0.00
F. Assessor's Consulting	39,000.00	41,500.00
G. Assessor's Expense	2,000.00	2,325.00
H. Assessor #1 Salary	5,128.00	5,128.00
I. Assessor #2 Salary	5,128.00	5,128.00
J. Assessor #3 Salary	5,128.00	5,128.00
K. Board of Appeals Expense	100.00	100.00
L. Board of Health Expense	3,800.00	3,800.00
M. Board of Health Director	43,096.00	45,965.00
N. Health Alliance Services	11,730.00	12,317.00
O. Building Inspector Salary	36,812.00	38,543.00
P. Asst. Building Inspector	1,500.00	1,500.00
Q. Conservation Comm. Expense	1,520.00	1,960.00
R. Conservation Agent	400.00	400.00
S. Conservation Comm. Clerical	3,784.00	3,780.00
T. Constable's Salary	706.00	729.00
U. Finance Committee Expense	400.00	400.00
V. Grant Administrator	16,675.00	47,822.00
W. Inspectors' Expenses	2,130.00	4,050.00
X. Personnel Director	13,993.00	14,721.00
Y. Planning Board Expense	3,650.00	3,650.00
Z. Sel. Office Administrator	79,573.00	83,711.00
AA. Selectmen Office Expense	13,200.00	17,150.00
BB. Selectman #1 Salary	5,729.00	5,729.00
CC. Selectman #2 Salary	5,316.00	5,316.00
DD. Selectman #3 Salary	5,316.00	5,316.00
EE. Green Committee Expenses	381.00	275.00
FF. Town Clerk Expense	8,500.00	8,500.00
GG. Town Clerk Salary	16,460.00	17,236.00
HH. Town Hall Office Clerk	34,237.00	54,100.00

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	VOTED 2023-2024	PROPOSED 2024-2025
II. Treasurer/Collector Expense	11,545.00	12,310.00
JJ. Treasurer/Collector Salary	69,790.00	73,070.00
KK. Web Administrator	44,370.00	46,677.00
2. TOWN EXPENSES	\$ 310,554.00	\$ 333,581.00
A. Animal Control Officer	2,961.00	3,056.00
B. Animal Control Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
C. Audit	9,217.00	9,884.00
D. Board of Registrars Salary	50.00	50.00
E. Compactor Operation	108,995.00	113,672.00
F. Compactor Substitute Wages	1,591.00	6,000.00
G. Computer Expenses	97,513.00	105,449.00
H. Computer Administrator	2,580.00	2,580.00
I. Drug and Alcohol Tests	360.00	360.00
J. Egremont Newsletter	3,500.00	1,200.00
K. Election Wages	4,500.00	5,500.00
L. Group Purchasing	1,310.00	1,310.00
M. Geographic Information System	5,300.00	5,500.00
N. High Speed Internet	2,871.00	4,075.00
O. Historical Commission Expense	2,050.00	2,050.00
P. Inspector of Animals	500.00	500.00
Q. Labor Lawyer	10,000.00	10,000.00
R. Legal Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00
S. Legal Fees	19,000.00	20,000.00
T. Litigation	7,000.00	7,000.00
U. Moderator	365.00	377.00
V. Public Health Services	2,470.00	2,470.00
W. School Committee	2,411.00	2,488.00
X. School Crossing Guard	0.00	0.00
Y. So. Berk. Chamber Commerce	260.00	260.00
Z. Town Engineer	4,450.00	4,500.00
AA. Town Report	300.00	300.00
BB. Town Telephone	8,400.00	10,100.00
CC. Veteran's Benefits	10,000.00	12,400.00
DD. Zoning Bylaws	100.00	0.00
3. TOWN MAINTENANCE	\$ 280,747.00	\$ 305,995.00
A. Bldg Maint. General Exp.	25,300.00	28,150.00
B. Bldg Maint. Utility Exp.	41,937.00	49,000.00
C. Building Maintenance Wages	15,682.00	16,419.00

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	<u>VOTED</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>
D. Maintenance Superintendent	67,714.00	71,243.00
E. Cemetery Maintenance	200.00	200.00
F. French Park Maintenance	3,270.00	3,450.00
G. French Park Trail/Forest	5,960.00	5,960.00
H. French Park Overtime Wages	5,000.00	5,000.00
I. French Park Wages	14,304.00	14,975.00
J. Public Lighting	6,900.00	8,900.00
K. Building Improvements	14,900.00	8,000.00
L. Tree Work	40,000.00	50,000.00
M. Tree Warden	7,580.00	7,898.00
N. Cemetery Exp & Maint	32,000.00	36,800.00
4. HIGHWAYS	\$ 655,469.00	\$ 663,664.00
A. Const. & Maint. Wages	5,000.00	5,000.00
B. Construction & Maintenance	206,300.00	210,300.00
C. Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	62,100.00	63,100.00
D. Highway Union	205,700.00	204,650.00
E. Superintendent Salary	81,369.00	85,614.00
F. Snow & Ice Removal	70,000.00	70,000.00
G. Snow & Ice Removal Wages	25,000.00	25,000.00
5. LIBRARY	\$ 43,664.00	\$ 45,514.00
A. Expenses	14,725.00	14,825.00
B. Librarian's Salary	27,841.00	29,289.00
C. Library Substitute Wages	1,098.00	1,400.00
6. POLICE	\$ 521,621.00	\$ 637,084.00
A. Chief Expenses	3,500.00	4,000.00
B. Chief Salary	97,659.00	102,249.00
C. Collective Bargaining	386,630.00	493,440.00
D. Department Expenses	10,000.00	13,000.00
E. Police Wages-Secretary	10,832.00	11,395.00
F. Vehicle Expenses	13,000.00	13,000.00
7. FIRE AND EMERGENCY	\$204,296.00	\$ 234,286.00
A. Dispatch Facilities	12,317.00	12,687.00
B. Emergency Management	1,600.00	10,700.00
C. Emergency Management Wages	2,820.00	2,820.00

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	<u>VOTED</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>
D. Fire Department Expense	66,000.00	70,000.00
E. Firefighters Stipend	38,000.00	40,000.00
F. Forest Fires	1,000.00	1,000.00
G. Fire Dept Admin/Train	12,000.00	12,000.00
H. Fire Chief pay	22,664.00	23,312.00
I. Reverse 911 system	2,250.00	0.00
J. So Berk Reg Emergency Plan	500.00	500.00
K. So. Berk. Ambulance Squad	45,145.00	61,267.00
8. DEBT AND INTEREST	\$225,428.00	\$258,095.00
A. Interest Short Term Debt	10,000.00	10,000.00
B. Highway Truck	57,444.00	56,532.00
C. Mt. Washington Rd Eng	90,849.00	125,609.00
D. Fire Truck	67,135.00	65,954.00
9. HUMAN SERVICES	\$106,568.00	\$111,716.00
A. Brien Center/Mental Health	2,203.00	2,203.00
B. Berk South Community Center	2,000.00	2,500.00
C. Community Health Programs	1,000.00	1,000.00
D. Berk. Comm. Action Council	1,000.00	1,000.00
E. Construct, Inc.	2,000.00	2,000.00
F. Eagle Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
G. Council on Aging	20,090.00	21,215.00
H. Egremont Garden Club	350.00	350.00
I. Elizabeth Freeman Center	500.00	750.00
J. Fairview Hospital	1,500.00	1,500.00
K. Housatonic Valley Assoc	500.00	300.00
L. Hospice Care	750.00	750.00
M. Railroad Street Youth Project	2,500.00	2,500.00
N. Public Transport	65,775.00	69,248.00
O. Literacy Network of So. Berk.	400.00	400.00
P. Friends of Prospect Lake	5,000.00	5,000.00
10. INSURANCE	\$777,448.00	\$790,161.00
A. Health/Dental/Life	349,238.00	338,165.00
B. Pension	252,750.00	271,871.00
C. Property & Casualty	134,435.00	136,800.00
D. Social Security/Medicare	22,000.00	25,000.00
E. Unemployment	10,000.00	10,000.00
F. Longevity Pay	4,025.00	3,325.00

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	<u>VOTED</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>
G. Sick/Vacation leave	5,000.00	5,000.00
11. RESERVE FUND	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
12. SCHOOLS	\$2,103,064.00	\$2,132,013.00
A. Operating & Transport	2,006,131.00	2,035,907.00
B. Capital Costs	44,253.00	45,201.00
C. Bond Payment	45,880.00	44,105.00
D. Vocational Education	6,800.00	6,800.00
TOTAL LINE ITEM BUDGET	\$5,767,246.00	\$6,144,883.00

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Egremont Water Department, said sums to be expended under the direction of the Water Commissioners, or take any other action thereto.

That the following sums be appropriated for/to the Water Enterprise Fund:

WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET

	<u>VOTED</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>2024-2025</u>
A. Water Debt	\$134,000.00	\$ 94,870.00
B. Water Operating Exp	27,500.00	25,000.00
C. Salaries/Wages	102,382.00	98,240.00
D. Utilities	15,000.00	13,500.00
E. Office Expenses	6,000.00	5,000.00
F. Water System Maint., Repair, Replacement, Upgrade	37,500.00	32,500.00
G. Audit	4,750.00	4,750.00
H. Insurance	39,516.00	19,280.00
I. Software	2,500.00	2,500.00
J. Grant Match	0.00	12,000.00
TOTAL	\$369,148.00	\$307,640.00

and that the necessary funds be raised as follows:

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
Water Department Revenues	\$345,800.00	\$307,640.00
Retained earnings	35,000.00	
Tax Levy subsidy	0.00	0.00

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 1 no.)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to grant an interest in land, including but not limited to any conveyances, leases, easements, or any other interest in land necessary to create low and moderate income housing to be located at 171 Egremont Plain Road, which land is more particularly described in a deed from Kenneth Dawes to the Inhabitants of the Town of Egremont, which deed is recorded in the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds at Book 480, Page 11, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute and enter any agreements, applications for grants, borrowing, and/or take any other steps necessary to create 4 units of low and moderate income housing on said property, including but not limited to a memorandum of understanding with a local not-for-profit housing organization for up to 99 years, or take any action in relation thereto.

(Finance Committee will make a recommendation at the Town Meeting.)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13D as it relates to forming a Retiree Liabilities Reserve Fund, and to vote to raise and appropriate, and or transfer from available funds the sum of \$35,000.00, or any other amount, to said Reserve Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$52,000.00, or any other amount, to pay for a new roof and new trim boards at the Mt. Everett Academy, commonly known as the Egremont Free Library and Archives, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer, the sum of \$11,756, or any other amount, to pay a bill from a previous year owed to LaRoche Construction Company's for repairs to the Belfry at the Mt. Everett Academy, commonly known as the Egremont Free Library and Archives, or to take any other action relative thereto.
(Required 9/10th voter approval.)

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Hillside Cemetery Perpetual Care, the sum of \$17,250.00, or any other amount, for expansion and repairs at the Town's Cemeteries, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$40,000.00, or any other amount, to resurface the driveway to the Riverside Cemetery, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$4,200.00, or any other amount, to make repairs at French Park, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$6,000.00, or any other amount, to update a portion of the town's MACRIS historic listings, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$6,000.00, or any other amount, to pay for tree removal on town property (other than town roads), or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer, and/or borrow, the sum of \$650,000.00, or any other amount, to purchase a fire truck for the Fire Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Secret Ballot 2/3 vote required to borrow.)

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no. See written recommendations.)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$27,250.00, or any other amount, to blacktop the parking lot at the Library, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$14,100.00, or any other amount, to hire a gardening service to update and upkeep the town's gardens, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 6 yes, 0 no.)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$40,000.00, or any other amount, for funds to be used for required monetary grant match, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,000.00, or any other amount, to purchase a Special Response Team radio for the Police Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$2,400.00, or any other amount, to purchase a Rotary mower for the Buildings & Grounds Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,500.00, or any other amount, for the Town's upcoming Birthday Celebration in September of 2025, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$27,957.00, or any other amount, to purchase a new Boom Mower for the Highway Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$150,000.00, or any other amount, to make road repairs to Town roads, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$425,000.00, or any other amount, as the balance needed to construct a new Buildings & Grounds Maintenance garage, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.
(Current estimate \$150,036.66)

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$15,000.00, or any other amount, to the special GASB 45 stabilization fund (for future retiree benefits other than pension), or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2025 beginning on July 1, 2024 for the revolving funds established in Egremont General Bylaw 24 for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or other officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, as follows:

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A Revolving Fund	B Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fiscal Year 24 Spending Limit
French Park	Board of Selectmen and Buildings & Grounds	\$4,000.00
Home Compost Bins	Board of Selectmen and Board of Health	\$2,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$4,000.00
Dog License & donations fund	Town Clerk	\$5,000.00
Inspector Wages	Wiring, Plumbing & Gas Inspectors, Fire	\$60,000.00
Compostable Materials	Green Committee and Board of Health	\$500.00
Recycling Proceeds	Board of Selectmen and Board of Health	\$30,000.00
Planning Board	Planning Board	\$2,500.00
French Park Dog Park	Board of Selectmen and Trustees of French Park	\$5,000.00
Wetlands	Conservation Commission	\$5,000.00
Police Road Details	Police road details	\$10,000.00
Transportation	Van service - transportation	\$20,000.00

(Finance Committee recommends approval, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.)

And you are requested to warn said meeting by posting copies of this Warrant in four or more public places in said Town, fourteen days at least, before the time of holding same.

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon at or before the time of holding said meeting.

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Given under our hands this 19th day of April, Two Thousand and Twenty-four.

Selectmen:



Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen,
Chairman

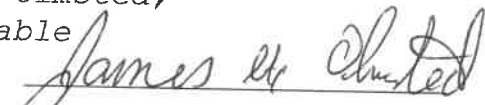
A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Mary Brazie,
Vice-Chairman

James Olmsted,
Constable

Date:



4-19, 2024