



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024

**Meeting Location: Training Room of the Public Safety Complex
576 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612**

Members Present: Julia N. Pingitore, Chair
Kirk R. Huehls, Vice Chair
Carol L. Riches, Clerk

Town Administrator: Heather M Munroe, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

CONSENT ITEMS

- 1. Approve the meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2024.
- 2. Approve the meeting minutes from the Executive Meeting held on February 26, 2024.
- 3. Appoint Heather Munroe to the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) Board through June 30, 2024.
- 4. Appoint Michael Hinkley as a part-time Public Safety Officer.
- 5. Close the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 6, 2024.
- (JP) Hearing no other comments, all consent items have been approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Award Sole Source procurement in accordance to Chapter 30B Sec 7, for IT Services to Suzor IT for the amount of \$44,550 for FY25 July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025
- Motion (KH) seconded (CR) to award sole source procurement in accordance to Chapter 30B Sec 7, for IT Services to Suzor IT for the amount of \$44,550 for FY25 July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Unanimous, all in favor. (KH) yes, (CR) yes, (JP) yes.**

UPDATE FROM TOWN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Bay Path presentation for the FY25 budget – Kyle Brenner, Irene Houle, Dean Packard

Funding sources

- Chapter 70 & Chapter 71 estimates are based on Governor's Budget submitted January 25, 2024.
- Estimated Chapter 70 funding for FY 2025 is \$14,453,612.
- Estimated Chapter 71 funding for FY 2025 is \$1,308,294.

- These are preliminary estimates subject to change as the House and Senate deliberate on the budget.

Financial Information

- FY 2025 TOTAL Budget for Assessments is \$29,173,197.
- MEMBER TOWNS' ASSESSMENTS ARE AT MINIMUM.
- Budget Includes Debt Service Assessment of \$1,552,023.
- Operational Budget does not require funds above Minimum Contributions by member communities.
- Member assessments total \$12,932,626.
- Although assessments are at the minimum it is important to note that the Required Minimum Contributions that each town must contribute have increased collectively by \$530,546.
- Member Towns' Transportation Assessment has been reduced by \$600,000 reflecting the use of our Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund.

Financial Highlights

- Total Chapter 70 Revenue – \$14,453,612.
- School Choice Assessment- (\$296,335).
- Chapter 71 Busing Aid - \$1,308,294.
- Use of \$75,000 from Excess and Deficiency to Continue Funding OPEB Liability.
- Use of \$100,000 from Excess and Deficiency to fund (Net School Spending) NSS obligation.

Budget Highlights

- Add Assistant Principal Position
- Add Vocational Aide
- Intern for IT Department
- 1:1 Initiative for student technology devices & associated software
- Wage increases in accordance with CBA's
- Increase costs for Transportation
- 8% increase in Health Insurance premiums
- Continued use of SOA funds to provide significant Professional Development to all staff, especially programs focused on SEL, EL, and chronic absenteeism.
- Use of SOA funds to provide programs to meet the needs of our most vulnerable groups close the achievement gap.
- Professional Grounds Contract for Fields
- Texts for Vocational
- Adv MFG, Animal Sci, Auto Tech, BEAM, Culinary, Dental Asst, CADD, Health Tech, ISSN, Met Fab, Prog & WebDev
- Shop Equipment - CNC Miller Control, Surface Grinder, CNC Router, Dust Collector Rotating Bake Oven, Freezer
- Virtual Welding
- SIM Man
- **(JP)** Increase is attributed to local minimum contribution which you have no control over.
- **Mark Love** Why is there nothing under capital improvement. Why is it zero now.
- **Kyle Brenner** Usually it is zero. There was a sewer betterment in the past but that is about it. The athletic field upgrade is the only thing on our radar at the moment. Looking

at solar as a possible assistance towards the cost of the field upgrade but the incentive has changed and that would no longer help to offset the cost of the fields. That is the only know project that we are possibly looking at. Newly renovated school and at capacity so nothing else at the moment.

- **Mark Love** Is there a dollar amount that you might have tied to each of the budget highlights on pages 8, 9 and 10 of the presentation?
- **Kyle Brenner** Yes, we will get those to you.
- **Mark Love** How exactly does the local minimum contribution work that it cannot be changed.
- **Kyle Brenner** Calculated by the state on how much each town has to provide. A large portion of that is the municipal growth factor.
- **Irene Houle** Local Minimum Contribution is the minimum amount each school district is expected to pay towards its foundation budget. No town will ever pay more than 17.5%. Paxton is at 3.37%. There was one town that was lower and the others where all higher. Based on property valuation and resident income.
- **(JP)** There was a recent meeting explaining the foundation budget which can be viewed for more detailed information.

Town Administrator Update

- Working on getting material to Finance Committee.
- Working on a presentation for the Finance Committee as well for Thursday.
- A couple of resident issues that are being worked on.
- Preparing for the Annual Town Meeting.
- Outstanding grants – ADA for Cindy at COA.
- Rapping up loose ends as we hit the end of the fiscal year.

ADJOURN

- **Adjourned Meeting at 6:39pm, Unanimous all-in favor. (KH) yes, (CR) yes, (JP) yes**
- **The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2024, 6:00pm.**

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Agenda

Attendance list

Bay Path presentation for the FY25 budget

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Graf-Parsons, Executive Assistant