



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
(508) 754-7638 – phone (508) 797-0966 – fax
dparsons@townofpaxton.net

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Meeting Location: John Bauer Senior Center 17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Members Present: William A. Trotta, Chairman
Peter Bogren, Jr., Vice Chairman
John F. Malone, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Department Budgets

- MIS budget to be reduced by \$5,000 because the police will now handle its own MIS issues.
Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the MIS budget minus the \$5,000 to go to the Police budget. Unanimous, all in favor.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to increase the Police budget an additional \$5,000 for their MIS items. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (PB) that we put a moratorium on all town hiring until at least FY13 (JM) seconded for discussion.**
(PB) What if we had a stipend for a couple of thousand to help out the clerk in the short term.
(JM) She already has a senior worker.
(PB) What if she had a designated assistant with signing ability? Give her \$2000 for a fill in temp person if she can work with this then fine otherwise the funds are returned. We could make a recommendation and it is her final decision as to who that person is.
(WT) So we are looking for an in house person to handle this.

(PB) Take the Assistant Clerk from 7800 to 2000 reduce budget by 5,800.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the Town Clerk budget with a \$5,800 reduction. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the budget for the Master Plan Implementation Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) for discussion on the increase to the Fire Chief's salary.**

(PB) Jay's last increase was with the wage survey and was spread out over two years.

(WT) Finance is looking at other towns to compare salaries for other Fire Chief's.

(PB) Yes, and they did not find anything comparable. I don't disagree that he spends the time and deserves it, but can we afford to do it right now.

(WT) The false alarm charges have not been properly established yet. At AMC there were solutions that could have prevented this issues of charging for false alarms. Now with the police presence we could bring that forward and cut down on the alarm situation.

(PB) Has AMC not paid these false alarm bills?

(CR) No, they are paying them.

(WT) New alarm proposal was to be done by the fire and police chief, and now the charges are just arbitrary. There is no control over the charges that are being done, and we need a written schedule. Put this on our next meeting agenda to discuss.

Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the proposed budget for the Fire Department. Unanimous, all in favor.

- Emergency Medical Services account 1232 includes a new lease for an ambulance.
(JM) We need to place a moratorium on borrowing or leasing. We continue to borrow getting good rates but we need to curtail our spending. We need to get the number 1 ambulance over and done with, as far as repairs are concerned.
(PB) We won't know if the problem is solved until the vehicle is run in warm weather.
Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to request a moratorium on spending. Unanimous, all in favor.

(PB) I would like to go back to the lease and deduct it from the proposed budget. \$215,898 would be new budget number.

Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Emergency Medical budget at \$215,898. Unanimous, all in favor.

- **Motioned (JM), Seconded (PB), to approve the following budgets. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Account

1250 – Public Safety Building

1291 – Emergency Management

1292 – Animal Control Officer

(WT) Do we get a monthly report of hours worked.

(CR) No, but I think we should request one.

Motioned (JM), Seconded (PB), to request hours from the Animal Control Officer with a monthly report. Unanimous, all in favor.

1294 – Forestry
1295 – Tree Warden
1421 – Highway Department
1424 – Street lights
1443 – Waste Collection
1515 - Sanitation Engineer
1519 – Inspector of Animals
1510 – Board of Health
1541 – Council on Aging
1543 – Veteran’s Aid
1549 – UMass Memorial Health Care
1630 - Recreation
1691 – Historical Commission
1915 – Central Purchasing
Overlay estimate at \$50,000
State Charges estimate at \$52,494
1710 – Notes and Bonds
1752 – Temporary Loan Interest
Bay Path School budget estimate \$229,515

- **WRSD budget**

(JM) I called Peter Brennen to see where WRSD got their numbers from. All of the towns are done the same way. They took the recap sheet and plugged the numbers in. They are looking at numbers that are not revenue, such as stabilization, free cash and the water enterprise. Our true revenue number 9,150,705 and this is all that the school can come at us for. This is about \$500,000 less than what the school is looking at. Even if we gave them 51% we would still be able to balance our budget without any cuts. This needs to be brought up at the regional meeting and discussed, so if they are looking for 48% percent of the actual revenue then that would be ok. We have to put money away into stabilization. We have to take proposition 2 ½ and growth or else we lose it. Some towns take 2 ½ plus growth and put it into their surplus, so that they have something in there.

(PB) That 48% came from a dollar figure based on the amount of revenue needed by the district. My theory is that they will say that they need 58% instead once this is explained.

(JM) The regional meeting should be Select Board members and Finance Committee members. The proven revenue numbers are the numbers that need to be agreed upon, and then we could agree on a certain percentage so that going forward we know what to expect.

(CR) Going forward do we want to invite our school reps in.

(PB) We should wait until our March 8th meeting.

(JM) Carol and Donna along with the Town Accountant could work up the sheets that we put together and then presentment them to the other towns.

Police Mutual Aid

- (WT) to sign the mutual aid agreement for the police.

Other Business

- (WT) A continuity of government plan needs to be made and it is required by homeland security. In the interim we want a chain of command set up for each department, which Carol will work on.
(WT) A comprehensive plan to clear the fire hydrants still needs to be put into place.
(WT) In order to get Federal grants you have to take the NIMS training and have the current certificates. We need these certificates back from each department. We will get out a second notice to try and obtain this information.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2012 at 7:00pm

Adjourned Meeting at 8:29pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant

Documents filed with Meeting Minutes:

Agenda

Attendance list

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Town Administrators Update

William A. Trotta
Chairman

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Vice Chairman

John F. Malone
Clerk