



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2013

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

Members Present: John F. Malone, Chairman
Peter Bogren, Jr, Vice Chairman
Julia N. Pingitore, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Public Hearing for Liquor License

- Brian Forts and Carlos Pimental of the Paxton Marketplace were present to discuss the recent application for a change in license from beer and wine to an all alcohol license.
- **(PB)** Where will the liquor be kept?
- Mr. Pimental replied that they are moving the counter and the liquor will be stored behind it.
- **(JM)** In 2005 we requested that the register be moved up front. There needs to be some sort of structure on the left as you enter, so people can't just grab a bottle and go out the door.
- Mr. Pimental agreed to update the floor plan and insert a barrier where Mr. Malone specified.
- **(JP)** What about security?
- Mr. Pimental replied that they have an ADT security system with cameras that will be running 24/7.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the change in license from beer and wine to all liquors for the Paxton Marketplace located at 707 Pleasant Street. Noting the change to the floor plan. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to close the Public Hearing. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appointment of two Intermittent Police Officers

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to appoint Shawn Davis and David Warren as Intermittent Police Officers. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Charter Contract

- Ray Charette provided a handout which outlined the steps that the Cable Committee recently went through in order to settle on a new ten year contract with Charter (document available in Board of Selectmen's office).
- Topics that were reviewed included:
 - The Contract Background
 - PEG Broadcasting
 - What do we use PEG funds for
 - Contract key points
 - Cable budget – Year 1 to 10
 - Cable bill impact
- Mr. Charette stated that the current rack of equipment that they have needs to be replaced.
- **(JM)** Do we have any plans on going live?
- Mr. Charette stated that we would need to tie the equipment into the internet.
- **(JM)** Is the equipment being depreciated? Talk to Carol about this. What do we need to do from here?
- Mr. Charette stated that we just need to sign the contract.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to sign the Charter Contract. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Review warrant articles for Special Town Meeting

Article 1.

Bay Path

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #1. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 2.

Transfer balance from appropriation to paint the White Building

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #2. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 3.

Assistant Town Clerk

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #3. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 4.

Stabilization fund

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #4. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 5.

Capital Deprecation fund

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #5. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 6.

Water Tank

Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to accept this as article #6. All in favor.

Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 7.

MA Appellant Tax Board.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #7. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 8.

Animal Control Officer vehicle

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #8. All in favor.

(PB) This is the first I am hearing of this. How did we arrive at the \$8,000?

(CR) After our last meeting you asked me to look at used vehicles and \$8,000 is what we have available to purchase another one.

(JM) We cannot use any of our current vehicles. Pete Warren has stated that he does not need a car, but Paxton Garage has recommended replacing it.

(CR) The Town Accountant has looked at what we have and that is where the \$8,000 came from.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on September 30, 2013. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Ambulance Contract

- Julia Pingitore recused herself from the following discussion to avoid any potential conflict.
- Chief Conte stated that it is my recommendation that Paxton does not sign into a further three year contract with Spencer Rescue. Over the last six years we have had a good working relationship, but in the last ten months some issues have occurred.
- Gary Sutter from Spencer Rescue replied that this comes as a bit of a shock to us. In February of 2013 we honored the request of the town to help with the budget

and we also agreed to lower the upcoming contract and cap the town's liability to \$25,000. As late as this past Wednesday we were still assured that we were going to continue as planned with the contract. On Friday I received an email from Chief Conte that they were going to forgo the contract with Spencer Rescue. For six years it has been a great regional contract. It will be tough for Paxton to support this on its own.

- **(JM)** I want to assure you that what we are addressing here is strictly public safety. As the Chairman I have been kept up to speed on the current occurrences. Mr. Malone questioned Gary if he was aware of any issues in regards to personnel or ambulance location?
- Gary Sutter replied that there was one issue with a paramedic that the Chief removed from the building and would not allow back in. Jay was not willing to work towards resolving this issue.
- **(CR)** We have gone back and forth with discussions once we received our BLS license, and it seems that attitudes changed a bit. Because of the letter of intent I was unsure of our ability to not have to go forward still with the contract. Once I heard from Town Counsel on Friday that we could I forwarded the information to Chief Conte and then the Chief contacted Gary.
- Gary Sutter at this point addressed an issue from Labor Day weekend. Mr. Sutter stated that he left early on that Friday, and had been notified by Mike Pingitore that Paxton would be up and running with BLS service starting on Sunday. I then followed up with the Chief that due to the Labor Day weekend and the Spencer Fair it would be difficult for Spencer to change a schedule last minute.
- **(JM)** I am confused as to whether or not we had ALS coverage?
- Mr. Sutter replied that we said that Sunday and Monday we would not provide ALS service. We informed the Chief of this on Saturday.
- Chief Conte stated that Paxton went out and got its BLS license due to the financial instability of Spencer Rescue and to protect the Town of Paxton.
- **(JM)** We have had more negative than positive over the last few months. I think we have an impasse that I don't know if we can get around. Carol and the Chief have both recommended that we don't sign the contract. At this point I would like to discuss with Peter his feelings.
- **(PB)** Carol you stated you felt the relationship had changed after the BLS license was received?
- **(CR)** Yes, that is just my opinion.
- **(PB)** On Friday night changes come in for the weekend last minute. My concern then is public safety. If at the last minute we are finding out that we don't have coverage it seems as if one person says that Paxton is all set and then someone else comes along and over rules what was already set.
- Gary Sutter replied that there was an issue back in July due to a shortage in personnel and I apologized for that issue. Paxton receives no less of coverage than Spencer does. We are not perfect, but we do have top notch personnel.
- **(PB)** The perception is that things have changed after BOS license was received. How does new agreement with Spencer affect Paxton's service?
- **(JM)** How many paramedics do you have?
- Gary Sutter responded we have 20 to 25 paramedics.
- **(JM)** Then why the shortage?
- Gary Sutter replied that only two of them are full time paramedics and the others are per diem.

- **(JM)** I have a concern over the fact that Paxton may not have coverage with a paramedic.
- Chief Conte commented that they will provide coverage to North Brookfield but not to Paxton.
- **(PB)** Asked Chief Conte to explain the change in coverage.
- Chief Conte replied that Spencer was asked to inform us within 24 hours if they could not cover, and they have, so that is not an issue. However today they were out a lot in Spencer and were not in Paxton at all. It is more of an issue not having that ambulance ready for Paxton people.
- Gary Sutter replied that there have been very few times that we have missed a call in Paxton.
- **(JM)** This will be the board's final decision and not the Chief's or Carol's. I personally don't like turmoil and I want to ensure coverage for Paxton.
- Donna Sutter spoke from the audience and asked if numbers have been crunched as to what it will cost Paxton to go on its own?
- **(JM)** We will look at that.
- Gary Sutter asked if a decision would be made tonight. Currently we are working without a contract.
- **(PB)** I would recommend that we take a week to gather more information and talk to the people involved, and then we can meet again in one weeks' time.
- Gary Sutter stated that they would continue coverage until then.
- Michael Meloche is a member of the Board of Directors for Spencer Rescue and he spoke and asked under which contract are going forward?
- **(PB)** I'm under the assumption we are going under the same contract that we were under as of last Thursday. We want to clean up some questions and I am asking for a week.
- Mr. Meloche replied that depending on which way you go there may be a balance owed to Spencer.
- Charles O'Connor another member of the Spencer Rescue Board of Directors suggested that we meet with our groups and use the next seven days to work on the issues. Which interpretation do you prefer to operate under? We are looking for guidance from Paxton.
- Gary Sutter stated that under the old contract we did not charge for July. If within a week we continue and operate under the new contract we would be all set, but if in a week you do not go with the new contract then we will charge you.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to meet again on September 16, 2013 at 7:30pm. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Gary Sutter assured that service will continue.
- Chief Conte asked are we to meet again
- **(JM)** Replied not unless instructed.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 29, 2013. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Update on maintenance at PCS

- Pass over at this time.

Candidate for screening committee for the new Superintendent

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) the nomination of Select Board member Peter Bogren as the candidate for the screening committee for the new Superintendent. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **FY14 Budgets**
No problems to report at this time.
- **Financial Management Team**
The Financial Management team met as scheduled and reviewed the proposed Special Town Meeting warrant. The team also reviewed the attached “Local Estimated Receipts versus Actual Local Receipts” spreadsheet and were in agreement that wherever possible realistic estimates should be used in calculating the budget; we have managed to accomplish this for the past two years.
- **Senior Residential Development**
We had a tour of the site on August 29th and was informed that the website will soon be up and running to provide information to potential applicants. The complex is approximately 50% complete and everything is on schedule. Siding is complete and the place is really come along very well. Two model apartments will be open for viewing prior to the complex being ready for occupancy.
- **CMMPO**
Please see the letter attached in which the CMMPO is requesting the attendance of a member of the Selectboard at a meeting on September 19th in Rutland to be part of the member selection process to choose a selectman from the group to represent the subregion’s communities on the CMMPO.
- **Homeland Security Grant**
We have now received all the equipment ordered under the Homeland Security Grant. The grant allotted the town \$11342 and we were able to spend all but \$3.53 on items available from the municipal equipment distribution catalogue. (copy of order attached)
- **February Storm**
We have now received reimbursement of \$22,467 from FEMA for the February 8-9th Blizzard. This is 75% of the \$29,956 actually incurred expenses for the one storm. You may recall that the town incurred snow and ice deficit spending for FY13 of \$28,786.

- **Davis Hill Rd Culvert**

We had a Davis Hill Culvert preconstruction meeting on August 29th. Work is due to commence on September 16 and a project timeline is attached.
We have already started to expend and received reimbursements in respect of the Massworks \$200,000 grant.

- **Paxton Garage Agreement**

The agreement with Paxton Garage is in need of renewing for the year ending June 30, 2014. Nothing has changed in this agreement other than the dates of the term.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to have the contract signed by Chairman, Malone. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **Before and After School Program**

The Recreation Commission through their director has expanded their programs to include a "Before and After School Program at Paxton Center School. Children can be dropped off at 7am to the first bell at 8:10am and after school to 6pm.

- **Town Hall**

We have almost completed the interior painting of the first floor of the town hall. This project was undertaken by the town hall employees with the assistance of Selectman Malone. I want to thank the ladies and Jack for all the hard work and enthusiasm they put into this painting; it certainly looks a whole lot better for a touch of fresh paint.

- **FY13 Audit**

The new auditor has begun preliminary work on the FY13 audit.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2013, at 7:30pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:05pm, 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

Charter presentation

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Julia N. Pingitore
Clerk