



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

**Monday, November 4, 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.

### **Senator Brewer and Representative Ferguson**

- Representative Ferguson expressed that they are gearing up for budgets.
  - They are currently working on the retirement bill.
  - Recently the local bill was signed that put the Town Government Act into law for Paxton.
  - Continuing to work on Chapter 70 funding.
- Senator Brewer added that they are continuing to work on getting full funding for public school transportation.
  - Added to local aid this year.
  - The states bond rating is AAA.
  - Forward funding on transportation.
  - Passed the Valor Act. Massachusetts rates among the best for veteran's benefits.
  - Working towards a more meaningful welfare reform.
- (PB) Questioned Representative Ferguson about the state's decision to abandon the schools frameworks program and move to the common core program instead.
- Representative Ferguson replied that we are adopting a national program, which would allow for a more unified standard from state to state. There is still a lot of local control with the common core program. The state received 160 million in education reform along with this.
- Senator Brewer added that we will pilot this program over the next two years. We will be closely guarding how this works.
- (PB) Concern over the town budget versus the school budget. At what point does this battle stop?

- Senator Brewer expressed that items such as employee benefits and energy efficiency should be looked at to help out with budgets.
- Representative Ferguson stated that there will be a hearing regarding foundation budgets for schools and will look at the formula for it.
- (JP) The state aid is down and expenses are still rising. There is a breaking point if more is pushed to the local level. Are there any creative ways at the state level being looked at to create more revenue and pass it down to the towns?
- Senator Brewer replied that areas such as waste water treatment, energy efficiency and tax equity should all be looked at.
- (PB) What hard choices are there going on at the state level?
- Senator Brewer expressed certain areas that have experienced hard cuts such as Healthcare reform, Retirement benefits and disability services.
- (JM) Repairs to our roads and water pipes are greatly needed in this town. We are doing the best we can with what we have. Our tax rate will most likely go over \$20.00 this year, and within the next seven years we could max out at the \$25.00 tax rate.
- (JM) Was there any concern at the state level with the schools trouble keeping track of money?
- Representative Ferguson replied that is was up to the school committee and local control to work out that issue. It did not warrant anything on the state side.
- (JM) Anything from the state as far as looking at security for our schools?
- Representative Ferguson expressed that this should be looked at on a local level with the schools and town police departments. There is firearms legislation that is being looked at but nothing mandated on school security from the state. What I really feel needs to be looked at are the mental health issues.

### **CIC Grant**

- Gary Kellaher was present to ask the board to sign into a regional agreement between Rutland, Oakham, Barre, Paxton, Hubbardston and Auburn to jointly purchase and use a bucket truck.
- (JP) I agree with regionalizing to save money.
- (JM) I agree as well.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to agree to sign the CIC grant application. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Trash Liens**

- Will be signed at the end of the meeting.

### **Faucher property – 1<sup>st</sup> right of refusal**

- Mathew Erskine was present to represent the Faucher's and request that the Board of Selectmen release the right of first refusal for the property located on Davis Hill Rd.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to agree to give up the right of first refusal. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Special Permit for new cell tower**

- (JM) AT&T feels that this location at 196 West Street would fulfill a blind spot. However we have an overlay district already for cell towers and they should stick with what the town wanted and all towers should go at the top of Asnebumskit.
- (JP) There could be a way around it even if it is a blind spot.
- **Motion (JM) not to support the cell tower on West Street seconded (JP) for discussion.**
- (JP) I would like to hear more from the Planning Board.
- (PB) I am more inclined to be in favor of it.
- (JM) I will rescind my earlier motion.
- No comments at this time to be forwarded to the Board of Appeals.

### **Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2013, with change on last page noted. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Town Administrators Update**

#### **FY14 Budgets**

- No problems at this time.

#### **SRD**

- Mr. Malone and I met with Dana Angelo on Thursday to discuss the Holden Road entrance/ exit. The special permit that was granted to them in 2012 stated left turn only from Holden Road. Mr. Angelo will look into the options available to him and get back to us. One thought was to install a “no exit” sign and include verbiage in their resident’s rules to this effect.
- Hoping to complete facility by December 1, 2013 and start occupancy in 2014 with a potential to fill by July 2014.

#### **Stormwater**

- The Coalition group is once again applying for funding from the Community Innovation Challenge Grant to continue working towards complying with future stormwater mandates. I am requesting that the Board sign the application signature page in order to be a part of this grant application. In the past two years the group has received grants of \$310,000 and \$200,000 which have been used to map outfalls, provide training, hire a consultant to prepare Standard of Operations and create a website amongst other things.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to give Chairman Malone permission to sign the application page for the grant. Unanimous, all in favor.**

#### **MIIA Awards**

We received information on how to earn FY14 MIIA awards last week and I was able to submit our Meeting Posting Policy along with other evidence to show that

we comply with the attached checklists in regards to posting meetings, creating meeting minutes and entering into executive session. This will allow us to receive the full 3% credit under public officials, which will be included in our next participation reward.

#### **Assistant Town Clerk**

- We currently have 7 applicants for the position.

#### **Other Business**

- Melinda Johnson resident of Holden Rd presented the Board with a letter signed by the residents of Holden Rd in regards to their concern over having access onto Holden Rd from The Hills of Paxton Village. Mrs. Johnson expressed that the residents of Holden Rd have a concern for the safety of the seniors coming in and out of the Holden Rd access as well as for the traffic traveling Holden Rd.
- (CR) The Special Permit that was granted allows for use of the Holden Rd entrance. This topic is on the agenda for the next Planning Board meeting which is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- (PB) Could I represent the Board of Selectmen at the Planning Board meeting to express what we were told was going to be done? Selectmen Malone and Pingitore both in agreement.
- Jeffrey Kent of the Capital Improvement Committee was present to give a few updates.
  - The old Outlay Committee has been dissolved.
  - Our new by-law is in place.
  - The by-law changed the committee makeup.
  - Assessors – Kateri Clute
  - Finance Committee – James Lang
  - Four Town MembersMembers should be reappointed to 3 year terms.
- (CR) All appointments have been made until May of 2014 and then a staggered appointment can be done next year.
- Jeffrey Kent stated that they held their first meeting last month and have another one scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be soliciting capital projects to all town committees and boards such as the library and the school.
- (JM) Note \* the Town Government Act was signed into law by the Governor.
- (PB) Note\* the drainage problem at Paxton Center School will be handled by our DPW. Thank you to Mike Putnam and Kevin Quinn.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to sign the trash liens. Unanimous, all in favor**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to end the session after the signing of the liens. Unanimous, all in favor**

**Next meeting scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013, at 7:00pm.**

**Adjourned Meeting at 8:45pm, 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

---

Peter Bogren, Jr.  
Chairman

---

John F. Malone  
Vice Chairman

---

Julia N. Pingitore  
Clerk