



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

**Monday, February 29, 2016**

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

Members Present: Peter Bogren, Jr, Chairman  
John F. Malone, Vice Chairman  
Julia N. Pingitore, Clerk  
  
Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

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

### **National Grid hearing**

- This hearing was requested by National Grid to obtain approval from the town to lay new lines on West St just prior to the Spencer town line.
- Michael Putnam, DPW Superintendent, stated that he has already reviewed this project with National Grid and he doesn't have any issues with it. No residential houses are involved.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to grant permission to excavate the public highways in order to run and maintain underground electrical conduits as laid out in plan #19834058. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Appoint Officer Guy Bibeau to Sergeant**

- Chief Desrosiers presented Officer Guy Bibeau as the new Sergeant for the Paxton Police Department. After initiating a search with an interview panel Officer Bibeau was picked out of a strong group of candidates to fill the open Sergeants position.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the appointment of Officer Guy Bibeau to the position of Sergeant. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Electric Light Department**

- Jason Lavallee and Jack Crowley were present to discuss the recent power outages.
- Recently National Grid has worked on a line that runs from New Hampshire to Millbury MA. That line serves Paxton from the Worcester line to the transformer near Dunkin Donuts on Pleasant St. This line is on an automatic switch so power comes back on faster. From Dunkin Donuts out towards Rutland we do not have a backup line that switches over automatically to keep that end of town working. We are working to update this line in order to get the entire town back on line faster. We are meeting with National

Grid on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to see if we can get a backup feed to the whole town. Most of the outages over the last couple of years have been due to problems with the A127 line

- We have been using Code Red to inform residents of power outages but this system does not follow the electric lines so it makes it difficult to use sometimes. We are looking at other means of getting the word out when the power fails.

### **Fire Department – Chief Conte**

- Chief Conte came to ask for permission to submit a SAFER grant for the Fire Department. Looking for a letter of support from the board. This grant will provide funds to assist in the recruitment and retention of Fire Fighters.
- The grant will cover the expenses for a 2 to 4 year term at no cost to the town. You can reapply every two years.
- (CR) What happens if the two years ends and you reapply but don't receive it again?
- Chief Conte replied that it just goes away then. We do not put it into the budget.
- (JM) If we do get the grant we need to be forthcoming with the employees about the increase and the potential that it will go away after a couple of years.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to support the application for the AFG Safer grant. Unanimous, all in favor. (JP) recused herself from the vote.**
- Chief Conte is also looking to apply for a grant to put towards a new tanker truck. The grant will only cover about \$250,000 and the truck would cost about \$350,000. I am requesting that we put about \$100,000 aside at Town Meeting so that if the grant comes through we have the money available because we only have 30 days to respond once the grant is offered. We can deny it at the time if we can't afford it but the money needs to be available if we decide to go ahead with it.
- (JM) What is wrong with the current tanker?
- Chief Conte replied that it is not road worthy.
- Chief Conte moved onto the discussion of his FY17 budget for the Fire Department. The only line item that has increased this year is the compensation due to the increase in emergency calls. CO calls have increased in the amount of time that we are at them. We are working on fire safety classes at the Hills and Anna Maria College in an attempt to help lessen the number of calls that we receive from there.
- (JM) How are collections going?
- Chief Conte replied very well.
- (PB) Where are we at for the current budget?
- Chief Conte replied that if the current rate of calls continues we could have a shortage of \$15,000 to \$25,000. Compensation on the medical side has increased but the fees have paid for it.
- (JM) Did you do anything about getting a hose truck?
- Chief Conte replied that through their gifts and grants budget they purchased a used pickup truck.

### **Lease on 10 West Street**

- (CR) The three year lease on the building at 10 West Street is coming to an end. We did receive a letter from Jim Lanigor of Land and Sea that he would like to extend the lease for an additional two years.
- (JM) I feel that this has worked out great for us and that you provide a good service for the town
- (CR) I would recommend that you maintain the lease as it is for an additional two years.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to maintain the lease on 10 West Street as it is and review in another two years. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Kennel Regulations**

- (CR) The only change that has been made to the regulations is the addition of the kennel sizes. Both the Town Clerk and Animal Control Officer felt this should be added.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept the Kennel regulations as written and place them on the warrant at the Annual Town Meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Trash fees**

- (CR) I would like to look at changing the one year criteria for removing a trash fee to six months instead?
- (PB) I don't see a problem with that. Either way it still needs to go through us for approval.
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to reduce the criteria for trash fee removal from one year to six months. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Reviewed the request for 74 Streeter Road to remove the trash fee.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the removal of the trash fee for 74 Streeter Road. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Reviewed the request for 218 Richards Ave to remove the trash fee.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the removal of the trash fee for 218 Richards Ave. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Open warrant for Annual Town Meeting**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to open the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on May 2, 2016. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Appointment of Election Workers**

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the appointment of Liam Eagan as an election workers for the presidential primary. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Town Administrator Update**

#### **FY16 Budgets**

- No major problems to report with the FY16 budget at this time. The Fire Chief has indicated that he may need addition funding if fire calls continue at the same rate.

#### **Open Seats**

- The Town is having a problem filling open committee positions. There are currently open seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and the Recreation Commission. The latter two positions are elected and the openings will appear on the Election ballot in May. Anyone interested can contact me and I will provide further information and put them in touch with the respective committee chairs.

#### **Code Red**

- The Town has a Code Red alert system that residents can sign up for through the Town's website or at the Public Safety Complex to receive emergency alert messages.
- It has been the practice to only use this system for emergencies and we continue to do so. We were warned when we enlisted in the system by the Code Red representative that we

should steer away using the system for anything other than emergencies so will not utilize when trash collection is late etc.

- We do our best to get information via the website, cable channel, bulletin board and Facebook. The Town, Fire and Light Dept. all have Facebook pages and residents should like us on Facebook to receive updates.

### **Community Compact IT Grant**

- With a great deal of assistance from Mike Miers, AMC IT Director, I have submitted an IT grant for \$62,000; as part of the Community Compact Agreement. This is a very competitive grant and for that reason I am not holding out much hope of qualifying. However if we are fortunate enough to be successful, we would take the opportunity to upgrade our computers, servers and firewalls to create a more efficient and secure network.

### **Caucus**

- The caucus is Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the PCS. People who wish to be nominated for an opening on the May 9<sup>th</sup> election ballot should plan to attend. Nomination papers will be required for those who cannot attend or do not get nominated during the caucus.

### **Assessor**

- I want to thank Kathy Stanley and her husband for painting the Assessors/Town Accountants Office. They did a great job and it is such a vast improvement on the previous dreary color.

### **COA**

- I want to thank Jack Crowley has painted the Outreach Coordinators office along with the area just outside the office.

### **DPW – Chapter 90 project**

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the Chapter 90 request for Brigham Road. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2016. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Budget review**

- Acct 1114 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1122 – (JM) request that the PLD remove the trash billing fee.
- Acct 1123 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1129 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1131 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1132 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1135 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1141 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1145 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1146 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1151 – no comments on proposed budget

- Acct 1155 – budget was increased to provide IT support.
- Acct 1161 – (CR) \$2,000 increase for Town Clerk salary. Provide review to the BOS. Merit raise was provided to the Assistant Town Clerk.
- Acct 1162 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1163 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1171 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1175 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1176 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1177 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1178 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1180 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1183 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1192 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1193 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1196 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1199 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1243 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1245 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1292 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1294 – no comment on proposed budget
- Acct 1295 – no comment on proposed budget
- Acct 1424 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1433 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1491 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1510 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1515 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1519 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1541 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1543 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1630 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1691 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1710 – no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1910 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1913 - no comments on proposed budget
- Acct 1915 – no comments on proposed budget

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7:00pm.

**Adjourned Meeting at 9:27pm, Unanimous all in favor.**

**Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:**

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons

Administrative Assistant