



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2016

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

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

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

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

We will enter into Executive Session and will only be returning to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning.

CMRPC

- This is the second public event on this matter and tonight they are looking to have the Select Board adopt the plan. An update was provided on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This update included why Paxton should adopt the plan. What hazards pose the greatest risks to Paxton? A layout of the planning timeline and identifying mitigation strategies was presented. The entire handout is on file in the Selectmen's office
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to adopt the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as it has been presented. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Presentation of the new Assistant Fire Chief

- Chief Conte presented and pinned Michael Pingitore as the new Assistant Fire Chief.

Saint Columba one day liquor license request

- With clarification that the request for a one day liquor license was for beer and wine only the Board voted in favor of the request.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept the request for a one day liquor license for beer and wine only. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- The question was posed by John Stone as to why the request from Saint Columba's was held off on whereas the same request from the Congregational church was not.
- (PB) The Congregation Church had a time restriction so we accepted it with the restriction that it was only beer and wine. Whereas the request for Saint Columba's was not time sensitive so we wanted to give them the opportunity to specify what the request

was for if it was something other than beer and wine.

Update on the Health Insurance Policy

- (CR) I have provided you with an Opt-out program for employees that are covered under the Town's health insurance. I don't see that too many employees would choose to do this program but for the few that might it would save the Town some money. Currently the Wachusett Regional School District is offering an opt-out program for its staff.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the opt-out plan as presented by the Town Administrator. Selectmen Bogren and Malone voted in favor of the plan and Selectmen Pingitore abstained from voting.**
- (CR) We have also revised the health insurance policy for our employees to now state that commencing June 30, 2017 any new employee choosing to come onto the Town's health insurance will be responsible for 30% for the monthly contribution and the Town will pay the remaining 70%.
Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept the revised health insurance policy as presented. Unanimous, all in favor.

Conservation Commission

- Current Conservation Commission member Caitlin Carey-Cournoyer presented to the Board of Selectmen that she would like to forgo her position as a full voting member of the Conservation Commission so that James Robert who currently holds an Associate position on the Commission can become a full voting member. Caitlin also expressed that she would like to resign from the Conservation Commission since they have a full board and would like to look at joining another Board in Town that needs members.
- (CR) The Zoning Board of Appeals currently has a position available.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to appoint James Robert as a Full member of the Conservation Commission and appoint Caitlin Carey-Cournoyer as an Associate member. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Re-sign the lease for Land and Sea

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept and re-sign the lease for 10 West Street under the new owners names. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Paxton Municipal Light Department

- (PB) I would just like to make sure that we are all on the same page with the communications that have gone back and forth between the Light Department and the Select Board. At this point going forward if the Board of Selectmen wish to discuss a matter with the Light Commission a written request has to be made through the Clerk of the Light Commission first.
- (JP) I did recently attend a meeting with the Light Department and asked about having a joint meeting and was told that they were not interested. Their attorney has recommended that they don't meet with us. They discussed the Enterprise status of the PMLD and said that it was the Town's responsibility to look into this. They also want to move forward and get the water and trash contract in place.
- (CR) With an Enterprise your budget needs to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting every year and the PMLD's budget is not voted on. It's not an Enterprise it's a different type of fund so there is no need to go to an Annual Town Meeting to make them an Enterprise.

FY18 Budget

- **(CR)** Budgets are due into Finance by January 20th. All the budgets will then be put together so that the review process can begin. I am hoping that we will be able to give some COLA this year.
- **(PB)** It is up to Finance to see if we can fit a COLA in. I am looking to fit in a COLA this year because the employees deserve it. It is being stated that WRSD is looking at a 4 to 5 percent increase in their budget this year.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2016 . Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2016 . Selectmen Pingitore recused herself from this vote.**

Town Administrators Update

- **Wachusett Greenways**
I received the attached letter from Colleen Abrams looking for financial support for Wachusett Greenways. I have asked that Colleen attend a meeting in January to provide more details of the work and expenses of Wachusett Greenways to allow the Board to make an informed decision as to whether to support an article at the May Annual Town Meeting.
- **Winter Notice**
The DPW Superintendent would like to remind residents that vehicles should not be parked in the street. Vehicles left in the street hinder snow removal and public safety.
- **Tax Rate**
The DOR has certified the Town's tax rate at \$20.39.

Other Business

- **(JM)** The Red Cross is running a program to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors into people's homes.

Correspondence

- **(JP)** The Town received a letter from Clark University stating that they will offer a 30% reduction in tuition cost for Town employees.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to leave the regular meeting and entered into Executive Session at 8:23pm and we will only return to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning. Unanimous, all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:40pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Town Administrators update

CMRPC Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons

Administrative Assistant