



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 15, 2017**

**Meeting Location: Paxton Town Hall 697 Pleasant St, Paxton, MA 01612**

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

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees:                        see Attendee List

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

### **Hearing for the Tree Warden**

- James Robert, Tree Warden for the Town of Paxton, held a hearing for a request from Ken Carlson of 17 Camp St to remove some trees that are along the street.
- Mr. Carlson explained that they are redoing their driveway and the roots from the trees on either side of the drive way run right underneath the driveway so they would need to be removed in order to work on his driveway.
- Mr. Robert stated that the trees are right on the road and that he does not see a problem with having them removed.
- **(CR)** Mr. Carlson will be responsible for any cost associated with having the trees removed.
- Mr. Robert stated that he would request that the stumps be removed as well.
- Mr. Carlson said that he has already included that in the cost.

### **Insurance Advisory Committee**

- Travis Thibeault and Deirdre Malone presented the findings of the Insurance Advisory Committee and their recommendation for the employee health insurance for 2018. The full report is filed in the Selectmen's Office. The recommendation to the Board was to maintain all the current health plans as they are and to offer a new voluntary vision plan as well. We are also looking to implement a Wellcard through Colonial Life which will provide some additional savings to our employees for medical out of pocket expenses.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee for the 2018 Employee health insurance plan. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Highland Village**

- Mr. Sherry, Mr. Stern and Mr. Nichols are all members of the Highland Village Board of Trustees. These three individuals along with many other residents of Highland Village are seeking help from the Town to try and get the road in their neighborhood completed. This is a private way and the development rights have changed hands a couple of times from the initial contractor and at this point no one will step up and do the work that is left to finish the road. Mr. Nichols provided a presentation, which is filed in the Selectmen's office, which gave the history of the development and where they stand today.
- Mr. Nichols expressed that they have already attending a few meeting with the Planning Board to try and get some direction and assistance with his matter but have been unsuccessful to date. The issue lies in that Highland Village is a private way and therefore the Town has no jurisdiction over it. The only option that could be presented to the current developer, Mr. Lussier is to cease and desist all further development until the road is completed but this is not an option the Highland Village Trustees want to use at this time, so it truly does tie the hands of the Town in assisting them.
- Neil Bagdis of the Planning Board suggested that we look at not issuing the occupancy permit from the Town for units that are currently being finished until the developer finishes the road.
- **(PB)** We need to check with our Town Counsel to see what our rights are.
- **(JP)** We need to know where our authority lies before we do anything.
- Mr. Nichols inquired as to how long that would take
- **(JP)** As soon as we hear back from our Town Counsel.

### **Ratify Dispatcher contract**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to agree to sign the contract for the Dispatchers Unionization. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Vote on Road Appropriation**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to agree to sign the statement as written in favor of the road appropriation as passed at Town Meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Accept recent resignations**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept with regret the resignation of Nancy Wilby from the Insurance Advisory Committee. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept with regret the resignation of Richard Doughty from the Planning Board. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2017. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Town Administrators Update**

- **Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center**  
I attended the annual WWRRC meeting last week and was pleased to see that more Paxton residents used the center during the year ended June 2017 than the previous year.

The center is constantly looking into initiatives to keep the cost of running their operation to a minimum and one of those is the proposed installation of solar panels to offset the cost of electricity at the site.

The reuse center will be closed for approximately one month from December 18, 2017 to enable the staff to do an extensive reorganization of the shelves and supplies.

I have provided for your review the literature that we reviewed at the meeting and also the agreement for the period June 2016 to June 2019 needs to be voted on and signed by the Board. This is the same wording as previously agreed.

- **Veterans Agent**

Jeff Kent, Veterans Agent will be part of a Veterans Day Event at the Paxton Center School on November 20, 2017. Between 10:00 to 10:40am 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have an opportunity to interview veterans followed by a reception.

- **Council on Aging Fair**

The COA Fair that took place on November 4<sup>th</sup> was a complete success. There were many visitors to the event and everyone seems to enjoy the experience. I applaud Cindy Love, Director and the Council Aging Board for their hard work in making this fair possible.

- **Food Drive**

The Town Hall is running a food drive this holiday season to benefit the Wachusett Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at the Town Hall until Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Correspondence**

- **(JP)** The Annual Christmas tree lighting on the common will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **(PB)** Provided an update from the roundtable meeting with Wachusett.
  - The track and tennis courts will be added in with the cost of the new field at the High School.
  - Reviewed the auditor's report.
  - The Town of Sterling expressed concerns with the size of the school budget.
  - Holden expressed its concern that they have money to spend on the schools but can't use it. The idea of taking away regionalization of K-8, or get rid of a couple of towns from the region. This is going in the complete other direction from last year when Holden was saying that the budget was unsustainable.
- **(CR)** There was more discussion on transportation.
- **(JP)** Do we wish to send the standard letter of support on transportation or the one that we created?
- **(PB)** I say send both.

### **Public Session**

- Neil Bagdis expressed that he hopes we are able to do help the residents of Highland Village bring at least one of three developers forward to help them finish the road.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00pm.

**Adjourned Meeting at 8:25pm, Unanimous all in favor.**

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

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Town Administrators update

Insurance Advisory Committee report

Highland Village report

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons  
Executive Assistant