



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

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

Members Present: Peter Bogren, Jr., Chairman
John F. Malone, Vice Chairman
Frederick G. Goodrich, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:58pm.

Meet with School Committee Member

- Robert Pelczarski of the School Committee was present but Mr. Clute was unable to attend.
- Mr. Pelczarski stated that the new Business Manager is up and running and that they are working towards that level of transparency that the towns have been asking for.
- **(PB)** Are they looking to decrease the size of the school committee?
- Mr. Pelczarski stated that this would need to go to a town vote, and that the school committee will take no action right now. They would initially increase to 22 members and then look at decreasing the number to 12. I am not in favor of this, because Paxton would go to only one member, and that would make it difficult to fulfill all the obligations that are asked of the members.
- **(FG)** Could they function with only 12 member and all the sub committees?
- Mr. Pelczarski replied that they would need to reduce the number of sub committees. There is a school district meeting at PCS on Wednesday, January 23rd.
- **(PB)** Why did you vote no on the audit?
- Mr. Pelczarski replied that he felt at this time we could not afford to pay for an audit to just dig around for things. We have some big budget issues that we are looking at this year with items such as school security and building maintenance. Also, transportation and special education costs are always increasing.
- **(JM)** Initially I wanted to see an audit done, but now I agree with you. I feel that the cost of doing an audit probably would increase and at this point we need to move forward and solve the problems at hand.

- Mr. Pelczarski added that to the credit of the principle, teachers and staff they have put in more effort this year with no added benefit, and are doing a great job. Our budget retreat is scheduled for February 9th at the high school, and this year the school committee will take a more active role in setting the budget. We will be running an ad soon to fill the position for the Superintendent, and are asking people to let us know what they would like to see from our next Superintendent.

Special Town Election Warrant

- The Board sign the February 26, 2013 Special Town Election Warrant.

Regional Dispatch

- **(PB)** Would the Town of Paxton agree to participate in a grant with Rutland to do a feasibility study for a regional dispatch?
- **(JM)** would disagree with this mainly because we looked at this six years ago and the cost to do it was too high, and since that time we now have a brand new Public Safety Complex and our dispatch center runs at a very high level.
- Jay Conte stated that it is a sizable investment to even have this done. This was looked at as part of the feasibility that was done before the Public Safety Complex was built.
- **(FG)** I am not against regionalization, but we are far more capable of dispatch then Rutland, and we are also talking to Leicester.
- **(JM)** We should table this until the next meeting, so that we can look for the previous feasibility studies.
- **(PB)** Carol will get more information from the Chief about Leicester as well.

Shawn Mead

- Chief Conte is asking that the town cover the medical for Shawn Mead. Shawn is listed as a part time employee but for the last three months he has been working 35 ½ hours a week consistently. Shawn has been filing in open shifts that would have otherwise had to go to overtime. He is also a good mechanic and has saved us a lot of money in this area as well. He is looking to go to full time and he would take a family coverage for health insurance.
- **(CR)** the cost for family coverage is about \$14,000, and we do have an additional one accounted for at this point.
- **(FG)** Is he asking for any vacation or retirement?
- Chief Conte replied that yes he will get vacation and holiday time.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to provide health insurance coverage for Shawn Mead. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Moratorium on borrowing

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) for discussion to continue a moratorium on borrowing for another two year.**
- **(FG)** I do not think we should do this at this time, because you do not have the recommendations yet from the Capital Improvement Committee. The roof on

the COA, the police cruiser, and pickup truck for DPW could be items that need attention.

- **(JM)** We cannot afford it. Even if these items are needed we need to budget for them. I don't feel that we can afford to borrow right now, and if we need to we take it out of depreciation, but no borrowing.
- **(PB)** We have a motion and a second. All of those in favor. Ayes (1) Jack Malone. All those opposed (2) Peter Bogren and Fred Goodrich. We should hear from Capital first and then we can revisit it.
- **(JM)** I would like to bring this back up in two meeting from now.

Disclosure Form 19

- Holly and James Robert presented a Form 19 to the Board and requested that they be notified of how to proceed.
- **(PB)** When a conflict occurs a Committee or Board member needs to dismiss themselves from the meeting during the time in which that topic is discussed. **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) that James and Holly Robert are to dismiss themselves from any Conservation Commission meeting in which the topic of the Worcester County Memorial Park is discussed. Unanimous, all in favor.**

By law on wireless service

- **(PB)** The Planning Board at this time feels that the wording in the by law is strong enough in the manner in which it is written.
- **(FG)** I would feel more comfortable if it had an amount attached to it.
- **(PB)** With the wording "acceptable to the town", for me that makes it work. All agreed that the bylaw is fine as it stands. Let the Planning Board know.

Police gas budget

- **(JM)** We need to resort the gas budget for the police. We need to get them back to a stable situation.
- **(FG)** Just in the past week with the calls you will get a better idea of the demand and that the numbers of calls have increased. We should restore the gas.
- **(PB)** We stated that we would fill the empty shifts and that on March first we would revisit the budget. Carol will look at the Purchase Services and see how we are doing and if there are any anticipated expenses to come from this account, and we will revisit this at our next meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2013. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Timeline for Warrant

- Approved the timeline that was presented.

CIPC Grant

- **(FG)** The Capital Improvement Committee has agreed that the \$4,000.00 for the CIPC grant should come from the Depreciation Fund.
- **(CR)** I would recommend that it comes out of the Reserve account so that you do not have to wait until the Annual Town Meeting. Board members agreed.

Town Hall hours

- **(JM)** We are running the heat and electricity more than needed with employees working hours outside of their regular schedule.
- **(FG)** You cannot restrict an elected official to a certain number of hours to which they can complete their job.
- **(PB)** Do we ask them to change their hours, or do we need to have someone else there with them? Let's table this and put some additional thought into it.

Town Administrators Update

1. I was asked by the Chair to come up with three possible dates that the Board of Selectmen could hold informal meetings for residents to ask questions and air any concerns regarding the "Act Establishing an Open Town Meeting":

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

If the Board is in agreement to these dates, Donna will post these meeting.

2. Chief Conte has successfully acquired funding of \$76,000 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to purchase much needed DFibs. This was a very competitive grant with over eleven thousand applicants. Dave Parr (FEMA) who awarded the check last Wednesday commented on how high Paxton's submission scored. Once these DFibs are purchased they will replace the current models in the ambulances and cruisers.
3. The Public Hearing for the renewal of the Charter contract has had to be rescheduled to Thursday, February 21, 2013. Charter representatives will be at the hearing to answer any questions from the public.
4. The new online conflict of interest training was released by the State Ethics Commission on December 10th. All municipal employees, elected and appointed officials are required to take the training prior to April 5, 2013. The Fire Department took the initiative to conduct this training during a regular training session at which I was present.
5. Route 31, Spencer-Paxton-Holden has been selected for a "Corridor Study" by CMRPC. Mike Putnam and I attended an initial meeting with Spencer and Holden officials last week to discuss the implications of this study. The purpose being to identify key issues and needs along this stretch of roadway. i.e. Access, potential

development, high volume areas, intersections, safety and flooding. As we receive more information I will share this with the Board.

- **(CR)** to speak with state auditor on Thursday in regards to the letter sent on the new regulations being instated for the Animal Control Officer.

Sign License Renewal Applications

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve Paxton Auto Services. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2013, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:15pm, 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

Frederick G. Goodrich
Clerk