



TOWN OF PAXTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2020

According to the local bylaws for the Town of Paxton, the Annual Town Meeting should have been held on May 4, 2020 which is the first Monday in the month of May. Out of concerns for the safety of the residents and officials of the Town of Paxton during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on April 16, 2020 to postpone the Annual Town Meeting to the end of June under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 Section 9. On June 8, 2020, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to further postpone the Annual Town Meeting to Saturday, August 29th at 10:00am, with a rain date of Sunday, August 30th at noon under the provisions of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020. On August 27, 2020, the Town Moderator declared a recess and continuance of the Annual Town Meeting to August 30th at noon due to weather predictions of heavy rain and thunderstorms under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 Section 10a.

The meeting was held outdoors at Tivnan Field located at 40 Recreation Drive in Paxton and was called to order at 12:10pm. The Town Moderator, Roger Brunelle, declared that a quorum was present. 100 registered voters were signed in by the Board of Registrars. The return of the warrant showed that it had been properly posted. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

As the first item of business, the Moderator requested that Town Meeting adopt a rule of this Annual Town Meeting to provide that any motion requiring a two-thirds favorable vote, by statute or otherwise, shall be determined and declared by the Town Moderator and a count shall not be taken unless requested by the Town Moderator or requested by seven or more voters in attendance.

MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE RULE HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Article 1 – Water Department Receipts To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through Water Department receipts, water fees, or water charges, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise, as follows:

Compensation	\$182,127
Expenses	\$772,495
Debt	<u>\$ 95,901</u>
Total	\$1,050,523

and that \$1,050,523 is raised as follows:

Department receipts	\$1,050,523
Or act in any way thereon.	

Article submitted by the Water Commissioners.

Peter Bogren, the chair of the Select Board, moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate through Water Department receipts, water fees, or other charges, the following sums for the Water Enterprise.

Compensation	\$182,127
Expenses	\$772,495
Debt	<u>\$ 95,901</u>
Total	\$1,050,523

and that \$1,050,523 is raised as follows:

From Department receipts	\$1,050,523
--------------------------	-------------

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton, the chair of the Finance Committee.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 2 – DPW Facility To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$11,426,000 or any other sum, to finalize the design, construct, equip, and furnish a new Public Works Facility on the site of the Town's existing DPW Facility at 107 Holden Road; provided however, that this appropriation and debt authorization shall be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion referendum under Chapter 59, Section 21C(k), of the Massachusetts General Laws; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Capital Improvement Committee.

Board of Selectmen recommended taking no action on Article 2.

Note: Article 2 was contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ dept exclusion at the Annual Town Election. This was question 1 on the June 29, 2020 Annual Town Election ballot and failed to pass with 139 in favor and 145 opposed.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ARTICLE 2.

Article 3 – DPW Roof Replacement To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$30,300 from the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the replacement of the DPW Roof, approved under Article 12 at the May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, to the Capital Depreciation Fund; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the DPW Superintendent.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$30,300 from the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the replacement of the DPW roof, approved under Article 12 at the May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, to the Capital Depreciation Fund.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 4 – Fire Department Hose Replacement To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000, or any other sum, from the Capital Depreciation Fund to replace 5,500 feet of four inch supply hose for the Fire Department; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC).

Jeffrey Kent, chair of the CIPC, moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Capital Depreciation Fund to replace 5,500 feet of four-inch supply hose for the Fire Department.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 5 –DPW Dump Truck To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$120,000, or any other sum, to purchase a new dump truck for the Department of Public Works; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Jeffrey Kent moved that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$120,000 to purchase a new dump truck for the Department of Public Works.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED BY MORE THAN A 2/3'S MAJORITY.

Article 6 - Paxton Center School and John Bauer Senior Center Parking Lots To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$230,000 to repave the Paxton Center School parking lot and area behind the John Bauer Senior Center, by borrowing the sum of \$130,000 and transferring the sum of \$100,000 from the Road Stabilization Fund; or act any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Jeffrey Kent moved that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$130,000 to repave the Paxton Center School parking lot and area behind the John Bauer Senior Center.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED BY MORE THAN A 2/3'S MAJORITY.

Article 7 – Water Tank Maintenance To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from retained earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$105,672, or any other sum, to pay for the inspection, maintenance, repair or modification of the Asnebumskit Road Water Storage Tank in accordance with the second year of the existing contract with Suez Advanced Solutions; or act any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Water Commissioners.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to appropriate from retained earnings of the Water Enterprise Fund, the sum of \$105,672, to pay for the inspection, maintenance, repair or modification of the Asnebumskit Road Water Storage Tank in accordance with the second year of the existing contract with Suez Advanced Solutions.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 8 – OPEB Account To see if the Town will vote to transfer in accordance with Chapter 32B Section 20(h), of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$33,455.42 or any other sum, from the OPEB Trust Account to pay for the costs of retirees' health insurance, account 0100-1910-5208-00; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Finance Committee.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to transfer in accordance with Chapter 32B Section 20(h), of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$33,455.42 from the OPEB Trust Account to pay for the costs of retirees' health insurance, account 0100-1910-5208-00.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED BY MORE THAN A 2/3'S MAJORITY.

Article 9 – Chapter 90 To see if the Town will vote to accept any funds to be allocated by the Commonwealth under authorization of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, (pertaining to Highway Funds); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads; and to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of receipt of said funds; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by Board of Selectmen and DPW Superintendent.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to accept any funds to be allocated by the Commonwealth under authorization of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, (pertaining to Highway Funds); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of Town roads; and to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of receipt of said funds; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 10 – Revolving Accounts To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44 §53E½ to set the annual expenditure limits for fiscal year 2020 for all revolving funds established under the General Bylaws, as set forth below, or act in any way thereon:

Council on Aging	\$25,000
Recreation	\$120,000
Library	\$20,000
Paxton Days	\$5,000

Article submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as most recently amended, to establish annual expenditure limits for fiscal year 2021 for all revolving accounts established under the Town of Paxton's General Bylaws, as set forth below:

Council on Aging	\$25,000
Recreation	\$120,000
Library	\$20,000
Paxton Days	\$5,000

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 11 – Appropriate funds to Road Improvement To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,382 to the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,382 to the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 12 – Use funds from the Road Improvement To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,382 from the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of resurfacing roads, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$110,382 from the Road Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of resurfacing roads.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED BY MORE THAN A 2/3'S MAJORITY.

Article 13 – Gold Star Family - Property Tax Abatement Section 5, Clause 22F To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22F, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide that the exemptions available to soldiers, sailors, and family members pursuant to Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F, of said Chapter 59, Section 5, may be granted to otherwise eligible persons who have resided in the Commonwealth for 1 year prior to the date of filing for said exemption, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Veterans Agent.

Jeffrey Kent, Veteran's Agent, moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22F, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide that the exemptions available to soldiers, sailors, and family members pursuant to Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F, of said Chapter 59, Section 5, may be granted to otherwise eligible persons who have resided in the Commonwealth for 1 year prior to the date of filing for said exemption.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 14 – Gold Star Family - Property Tax Abatement Section 5, Clause 22H To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide an exemption from taxes for the real property of the surviving parents or guardian of soldiers and sailors who suffered a fatal injury or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service as members of the armed force of the United States, or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Veterans Agent.

Jeffrey Kent moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H of the Massachusetts General Laws, to provide an exemption from taxes for real property taxes of the surviving parents or guardians of soldiers and sailors who suffered a fatal injury or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service as members of the armed forces of the United States.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended to take no action.

Finance Committee recommended to take no action.

Doris Huard moved to take no action on Article 14. The motion was seconded by Deirdre Malone.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION ON ARTICLE 14 PASSED.

Article 15 – Wachusett Greenways To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,000, or any other sum, to be used for the expenses for Wachusett Greenways, an eight-town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by Wachusett Greenways.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be used for the expenses for Wachusett Greenways, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 16 – Town Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,321,640 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from the EMS Receipts Account, the sum of \$300,000 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from the Title V Special Assessment Account, the sum of \$7,698 or any other sum, and to further appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$342,945 or any other sum, and to further appropriate from the Water Enterprise the sum of \$15,000 or any other sum, and to further appropriate from the Overlay Account, the sum of \$100,000, or any other sum, for a total appropriation of \$7,087,283, or any other sum, to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020, and especially for any and all the items shown on the attached Budget; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Finance Committee.

Richard Fenton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,321,640 and to appropriate, from the EMS Receipts Account, the sum of \$300,000, and to further appropriate, from the Title V Special Assessment Account, the sum of \$7,698, and to further appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$342,945, and to further appropriate from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, the sum of \$15,000, and to appropriate from the Overlay Account, the sum of \$100,000, for a total appropriation of \$7,087,283 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020, excluding the schools.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.

Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Richard Fenton moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$7,087,283 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, excluding the schools, to be allocated as recommended and itemized in the budget summary attached to the Warrant.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 17 - WRSD Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,843,902 to pay its assessed share of the Wachusett Regional School District Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020, and thereby approve the District's budget for said fiscal year; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Wachusett Regional School District Committee.

Richard Fenton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,843,902 to pay its assessed share of the Wachusett Regional School District Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Robert Wilby, member of the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee, introduced the new Superintendent of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Kyle Brenner, to the town residents.

Article 18 - Bay Path Budget To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$255,710 to pay its assessed share of the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee.

Robert Wilby moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$255,710 to pay its assessed share of the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School Budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2020.

The motion was seconded by Peter Bogren.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Article 19 – Board of Assessors To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors, in accordance with Section 21A of Chapter 268A of the General Laws, to appoint a member of said board to serve as the Town’s Principal Assessor, a position under the supervision of said board; or act in any way thereon.

Article submitted by the Board of Assessors.

Peter Bogren moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors, in accordance with Section 21A of Chapter 268A of the General Laws, to appoint a member of said board to serve as the Town’s Principal Assessor, a position under the supervision of said board.

The motion was seconded by Richard Fenton.

Board of Selectmen recommended approval.
Finance Committee recommended approval.


THE MODERATOR DECLARED THAT THE MOTION PASSED.

Recognitions:

Peter Bogren recognized out-going Select Board member, Jack Malone, and Michael Putnam, the Superintendent of the Department of Works retiring on September 30, 2020. The residents of Paxton thank them for their dedication and service to the Town of Paxton.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting.

The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 1:06 pm.

 9/21/2020

Submitted by Laurie Becker, Town Clerk