



Town of Paxton  
Board of Selectmen  
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## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday, November 21, 2011**

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

Members Present: William A. Trotta, Chairman  
Peter Bogren, Jr., Vice Chairman  
John F. Malone, Clerk  
  
Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

### **Appointment to the Planning Board**

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to present Jeffrey Kent for appointment to the Planning Board. Unanimous, all in favor. Vote taken as follows: (JM) voted, yes; (WT) voted, yes; (PB) voted, yes.**

### **Appointment of Public Safety Officer**

- **Motion (WT) seconded (JM) to appointment James Early as a part time Public Safety Officer. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Initiative**

- Dr. Pandiscio was present at the meeting to discuss the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Initiative. Our goal in the district is to establish a tech based curriculum. We are looking to accomplish this by establishing a wireless infrastructure, provide 1500 I pads to all grade levels and utilize district funds to support it. Education practice needs to adapt to a rapidly changing world. The time of using text books and magazines is becoming obsolete. Dr. Pandiscio provided a handout which detailed the facets of the program, and then stated that we are seeking authorization to move funds around for this program. We are looking for the January meeting date, because we need some ramp up time, which would be in the summer. We would get this going now so we would be ready for next year.

- **(PB)** I understand that this initiative was to help bring struggling communities up to speed and I don't think Paxton falls into that category. Is this program really necessary at this time or could we give the million dollars back to the tax payers.
- Dr. Pandiscio replied that the towns need to decide when they are ready to do this and make that decision themselves.
- **(PB)** We do not know what the school budget is, or the state's numbers or our own town budget, so trying to make a call on this in January would be difficult. We are asking for \$100,000 in December at Special Town Meeting, and then to ask for another \$1,000,000 in January could be a difficult call.
- **(JM)** Would you still be asking for this if we didn't have this \$1,000,000 from the oil remediation?
- Dr. Pandiscio, Yes I would still be doing this, because it is important.
- **(JM)** How would you handle the payment of training for the teachers?
- Dr. Pandiscio stated that when the teachers have a good professional development program offered to them they always step up and do what we set forth.
- **(JM)** With the upcoming budget we don't have any money, and it would be nice to get some of this put back in to the town's and give them a chance to build back up.
- **(PB)** Were upgrades done to the High School during the recent renovations that would assist in this project?
- Dr. Pandiscio stated that some provisions were made, but not what is needed to run this. This is an opportunity, and we are looking to see what the towns want to do.
- Robert Pelczarski – school committee member, stated that the need is there whether we do it now or later, but we have a chance with this \$1,000,000.
- **(JM)** Is the I pad going to increase our schools MCAS scores?
- Dr. Pandiscio stated that the MCAS is a base line and if we want our schools to be average then we are ok, but I think that we want to be a little better than that.
- **(PB)** Is the school committee behind this?
- Robert Pelczarski state that the school committee voted unanimously in favor of this.
- **(WT)** Technology changes so fast, and I agree that the students can get all they want from computers, but we should still look at a newspaper or book or magazine. It's a great idea, but financially is this the right time. The town of Rutland sent a letter suggesting that all the communities get together collectively and let the leadership have a say, and then let it go to the towns.
- Richard Fenton (Finance Committee Chairman) inquired as to how do you replace stolen or lost I pads? What percent do you expect to be lost on an annual basis?
- Dr. Pandiscio state that the kids won't leave with them. The teachers are responsible for them, and the kids can go home and use Goggle to get into what they need.
- **(WT)** Dates for a Regional meeting would be December 1, 8 or 15?
- Dr. Pandiscio expressed he could attend any one of those dates stated.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (JM) in favor of Regional meeting either on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of December. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **(PB)** We need to do what is best for our town with our budget numbers and we need to wait until the Annual Town Meeting.

### **Fire Chief, Jay Conte**

- The Fire Department was given a 2007 Chevy Tahoe by Worcester County Memorial Park with some additional funds used out of the equipment account. My current vehicle will go to the Fire Inspector and will be marked. The Tanker will now be able to remain in the station. The Inspectors vehicle should be able to last another 5 years.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) in favor of accepting the donation of the Tahoe from Worcester County Memorial Park. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- The Chief has updated the fee schedule for fire permits. There has been no increase to the residential fees. We felt that the underground tanks and flammable liquids should be increased because of the amount of paperwork and time that goes into them, and they are mostly commercial properties.
- (JM) Are our fees close to what other towns charge?
- Chief Conte replied, that yes they are, we just try to cover our cost and not make any money.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) in favor of the new fee schedule for the fire department permits. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Ground Lease**

- PHP will meet with us on December 5th to discuss the wording.

### **Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 24 & November 7, 2011. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Muir Meadow**

- To acquire a unique piece of property.
- (CR) We need to put this into the Central Registry for 30 days, and in order to not hold things up we need to do this prior to the meeting so we meet their end of December deadline.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) in favor of opening the discussion on the floor. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Frederick Goodrich spoke that the PILOT program with Worcester hasn't been looked at yet and we need to get into this with negotiations with Worcester.
- (PB) In my opinion this is separate and Worcester has to go to the state to get the grant.
- Frederick Goodrich replied there is a whole negotiation with Worcester that needs to go on.
- (PB) With the PILOT Committee in place we can move forward in these areas.
- Fred Goodrich expressed that it has been stated that no other development should go in there, but then we lose that revenue.
- Rich Fenton stated that the numbers are easy that even one student per house will increase the school budget, and put a burden on the police, fire and town infrastructure.
- Neil Bagdis (Planning Board, Chairman) stated that the 40B issue with water started at 150 and ended at 87. We need to look at all the issues.
- Rich Fenton replied the economy will recover and when it does there will be a pent up

need for development and the end point is what will be reached and we will have fiscal problems.

- (WT) Jack Malone is working on a list of facts to present and once the warrant is closed then we can have a meeting in an open discussion prior to the December 12<sup>th</sup> Special town Meeting.

#### **Close warrant for the Special Town Meeting**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept article number one as it is written. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to recommend approval of article number one. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept article number two as it is written. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to recommend approval of article number two. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (WT) to close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on December 12, 2011. Unanimous, all in favor.**

#### **Town Administrators Update**

- We received notification from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that we were unsuccessful with our application for a grant under the Massworks Infrastructure Program to repair the Davis Hill Road culvert. The letter is attached.
- I attended an Earthday Site Team meeting last week and provide a copy of the collection details for your information. The household hazardous products collections continue to run at a loss, but are an important part of the service and are offset by other collections.
- Mike Putnam and Chris Ross have passed the required exam that allows them to operate the catch basin cleaner under the hoisting license. Chris has been out for past two weeks taking care of all the basins on the main streets and problem areas.
- We will be lighting the holiday tree on the Common on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm, this will be followed by caroling and a holiday meal at the John Bauer Senior Center put on the Recreation Commission. The tree was hit by a car and knocked over. We will try to right it, and the Light Department has purchased new lights, and will put them on prior to December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Kathleen Polanowicz from Congressman McGovern's office has asked that the Board would supply a number of dates that they are available to meet with Preservation Massachusetts over the next few months and she will provide these to the other party to set up a date.

Jack Malone made a statement to thank Country Bank again for their donation to the Recreation Commission.

**Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7:00pm**

**Adjourned Meeting at 8:15pm, 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

21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Initiative

Fire Department permit fee schedule

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William A. Trotta  
Chairman

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Peter Bogren, Jr.  
Vice Chairman

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John F. Malone  
Clerk