



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

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 6:59pm.

Fire Department – SCBA's

- Chief Conte opened by stating that he would like the Board of Selectmen to accept the lowest quote of \$210,440 given by Fire Tech and Safety for the purchase of the SCBA's.
- (PB) How did you get the cost down an additional \$20,000?
- Chief Conte stated that IPS and Fire Tech and Safety are the only two companies on the state bid list that sell what we are looking for and when IPS found out the price that Fire Tech and Safety provided they got into a bidding war, and this is where it ended up.
- (PB) What is the Bullard bundle pack?
- Chief Conte explained that it is a camera that goes into the RIT pack. We have one now, but it's old, and we have two working ones that we got from an old state grant.
- (WT) Can they be purchased for less?
- Chief Conte replied that not to this degree with the color. The color reflects temperate and changes that occur. This is for discussion and I would like to settle this tonight.
- (PB) Did we get a price on the MSA packs?
- Chief Conte stated that no they did not, because the committee did not pick that brand.
- (PB) Shouldn't we consider picking a lesser one to save some money if they were close?
- Chief Conte stated that the committee came up with the Scotts.

- (PB) I would like to think that on behalf of the town that we would try and save some money.
- Chief Conte stated that no one else in MA has the MSA, and that no one uses it and we can't get it serviced.
- (PB) I'm just thinking that if we could save some money that would be a wise decision.
- Kevin Quinn spoke on behalf of the selection committee and stated that the committee does not get pricing. We selected the equipment and the Chief got the pricing.
- Chief Conte replied that MSA has old technology and they do not have locators on their packs yet. ISI does have a locator on their pack. The people that wear it for safety are the ones that decided on the equipment. The Scott scored the highest and that's what we're going with.
- (WT) If you got two prices to start with then you could get them to go lower. You had an option to have them match prices. The committee made a selection and the chief got the list price, and then with some pressure from this side now you are getting a reduced price.
- (CR) Interjected that Chief Conte was following the proper process. The committee came forward to Jay with their selection, and he went to the state bid list, and obtained a quote for the equipment.
- (PB) Fire Tech found out that there was another bid, and then they came down on their quote. How did they find out there was another bid?
- Chief Conte replied that they heard there was another bid, so they decided to rebid it.
- (WT) Why do we need two RIT packs?
- Chief Conte stated that one goes on the ladder and one goes on Engine 1. You get one hour of air on each pack, so if it takes more than an hour we have another pack to use as a backup.
- (JM) We went in for 29 new SCBA's. How many old one do we have?
- Chief Conte replied that we have 29 old ones. We need one for each seat plus two for training and the Chief.
- (JM) Does everyone have to have one?
- Chief Conte, Yes, Everyone but the driver has them mounted to the seats.
- (JM) Can we buy less? Not a cheaper quality, but just fewer units?
- Kevin Quinn replied for the committee that they did not evaluate the number that was needed, but in my opinion yes we do need them all.
- (WT) The equipment that we have is still functional and no one would be put in jeopardy if we don't buy all 29?
- Chief Conte replied that the liability is on me with the old equipment that is not tested because of its age.
- (WT) Once the new equipment is purchased when will we receive it?
- Chief Conte stated late May.
- (JM) Can we get a partial order?
- Chief Conte stated No, because that causes training issues. What about the thermal images? If I have enough out of my own budget can I buy this, because this is a great price?
- (JM) If we accept the bid and we stretch out the purchasing, what could be done in that aspect?
- (CR) It is a borrowing so it doesn't matter if you split it up.

- (WT) We discussed this last year with Finance, to split this up, but now this is where we are at.
- Kevin Quinn commented that because we are buying this in bulk you are seeing the competition in pricing where if it was a smaller order they would not be as competitive.
- Chief Conte stated that the Next gen series has been out for a while. The 5500 bottle is brand new. Holden has these already.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (JM) to approve the purchasing of 29 SCBA's in the amount of \$210,440.00. Peter Bogren voted against the motion.**

Fire Department budget

- Chief Conte presented a revised budget with an increase to Compensation to cover the false alarms for Anna Maria. Rather than increasing the compensation line a transfer from the General Fund will be done as needed.
- (PB) Did this go up with the new dorms?
- Chief Conte, Yes.
- (WT) What do you spend on a call?
- Chief Conte replied that a call for a dorm you send everyone. If it is a trailer that is different. Right now we do not always know what building the call is for. Through the new alarm company AMC is hiring we will know what building it is.
- Chief Conte stated that in regards to his own pay he is just looking to be compensated for the hours that he works. He is there close to 40 hours, and works Saturdays and Sundays.
- (JM) When was your last raise?
- Chief Conte stated in 2003 when they did the survey.
- (JM) Any increase in more training?
- Chief Conte, No, only in AMC.

EMS budget

- Chief Conte stated that we are doing more night calls. About 2 a week. We are running at 40 calls a year for the second call and another ambulance goes out. The more calls we do the more we make, and when you increase payroll you make money.
- (JM) Are you looking to hire more employees?
- Chief Conte replied we are in negotiations with Spencer to hire one more EMT/Fire individual.
- (WT) What is your weekly number of calls?
- Chief Conte replied that we do about 825 – 850 annually.
- (WT) Are they different types of calls now days?
- Chief Conte, Yes, more ALS calls. We also are looking at leasing a new ambulance. Our first ambulance is a 1999, and is our back up. There is a list of things that need to be done to it at an estimate of \$40,000 to repair it, or lease a new one.
- (WT) If you lease, do you get a new one?
- Chief Conte stated that we would get a 2012 and put our equipment in it. It is better to lease than to buy, because you get a specked van.
- (JM) Can we get anything on Homeland?

- Chief Conte replied that no there is not, and that ambulances need to be replaced about every ten years, and you have to have a backup. We have been doing repairs on the new one, it seems to be a compressor issue, and it should be fixed soon. The dealer has been very good in working with us.
- (WT) Do you do about 1,000 miles a week?
- Chief Conte replied, yes.
- (WT) Do you swap the ambulances out?
- Chief Conte replied, yes, and we run the old one in bad weather, and I don't want to wear out the old one, because we need it as backup. Anytime you want to come down and take a look at it.
- (WT) Under the Fire budget, are we increasing the pay for the Fire Inspector?
- Chief Conte's response, yes, he is a full time employee.
- (WT) What are his duties?
- Chief Conte stated that he works a nine hour day Tuesday through Friday and on call any other day or night for inspections. He is also on the EMS and Fire.
- (WT) Does he go on calls while he is on duty?
- Chief Conte explained that he is salary and he doesn't get additional pay for going on call. He is also our facilities person as well.
- (WT) How many inspections does he do?
- Michael Pingitore remarked that on average 2 a day.
- Chief Conte explained that this position also saves us on having to tone out for CO2 calls because Mike takes them. He does the fire prevention as well, which is how we got the safe grant.
- Michael Pingitore explained that with the fire prevention he visits the school twice a year to do a program and he goes to the Senior Center once a month.
- (WT) 6,018 on the clerk for her pay. Did she get a pay raise?
- Chief Conte stated that he provided her with a stipend when she took on his work. She picked up a lot of work from me.
- (WT) Vehicle maintenance. How often is the ladder tested?
- Chief Conte responded that the ladder is sent out about once every three years
- (WT) Protective clothing account.
- Chief Conte stated that each year we purchase five new sets of gear at \$11,000.
- (JM) Do you have an inventory list?
- Chief Conte, Yes.

Senior Worker

- Susan Stone – Town Clerk is looking to have a senior worker come in for five hours a day, one day a week. Currently I am working on my vitals that need to be numbered, the Annual Town Meeting, the presidential election, the ethics and census forms. The senior worker could open envelopes, do typing and assist with the dog licenses. The dog program is being worked on and soon the licenses will be printed out.
- (JM) I saw a warrant item for pads from Scott Farrar.
- Susan Stone relied those are to hold me over.
- (JM) When will this start?
- Susan Stone stated it's ready to go soon.

- (WT) How many dogs do you have?
- Susan Stone stated there are over 500 on the program.
- (WT) How much will the compensation be on this?
- Susan Stone replied the senior work off program will cover it.
- (JM) Will this person just be until a part timer comes on if approved?
- Susan Stone, Yes.
- (JM) Have you asked Carol if any of the Town Hall employees could assist you if they have time?
- Susan Stone replied that's ok but when things come up in other offices they need to go back.
- (JM) Yes, but have you asked the questions?
- Susan Stone, No.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (JM) to approve with further discussion. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (JM) Carol, what is your opinion?
- (CR) Yes, I agree.
- (PB) Yes, I can see with the election coming up there will be extra work.
- (JM) Will this reduce your time in the Town Hall after hours?
- Susan Stone replied I hope so.
- (JM) I am concerned about an employee being there alone.
- (PB) Then we need to address this with the entire Town Hall and all the employees.
- (JM) My concern is over employees being there after hours and no one knows that you are there.
- (WT) Is alarm set?
- Susan Stone replied that the doors are shut, but the alarm is not set.
- (JM) We will have further discussion with Carol on this.
- (PB) Call dispatch to let them know you are there.
- Susan Stone replied that she will do that.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to approve a senior worker for the Town Clerks office. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Open Offices

- Place open offices with remaining terms on ballot for the May election. Chapter 41 Section 10.
 - Planning Board - 1 position – 3 years
 - Planning Board - 1 position – 1 year
 - Recreation – 1 position – 1 year
 - Assessors - 1 position - 2 year term
 - Water Board - 1 position - 1 year term
 - Bay Path Vocational – 1 position - 1 year term
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) move to place the above listed positions on the ballot for the Annual Town Election on May 14, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Storm Water

- (CR) The Attorney General came back with some suggestions on the current by-law, so they are looking for you to accept the changes that have been made.
Motion (JM) seconded (WT) move to accept the amended Storm water Bylaw & Regulations Unanimous, all in favor.

Solar By-law

- (CR) The Light Department Manager has some concerns with this, and you may want to put it off for now.
- (JM) Greg is waiting to talk to the Planning Board about concerns he has.
- (WT) Then we will table this item till we have more time to review.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (WT) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (WT) seconded (JM) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

1. The Treasurer attended the annual Worcester Regional Retirement meeting last week and came away with information that the method of determining towns appropriation will change to the actuarial method. To mitigate wide fluctuation in the annual appropriation from FY12 to FY13, Worcester Regional Retirement will base FY13 and FY14 on a phase-in to actuarial method. The full actuarial method will be used for FY15. This is going to have a significant impact on our appropriation for FY14 onwards.
2. The Project Funding Agreement between MSBA and the WRSD has been executed. The Town Accountant is in the process of requesting reimbursement for payments made to date on this project. Attached is a revised schedule as provided by the contract at our last project meeting on January 12th.

Public Session

- Mr. Kent from the Planning Board expressed the desire to be able to utilize his experience in planning and budgeting to help assist the town.
- (CR) informed Mr. Kent that the town has a Capital Improvement Committee that does exactly that. They plan out what the capital items are that the town will need over the next 5 years, and look to see who it can be funded. There is currently an opening on this committee; however they were looking for a member from the Assessors to fill this position, so we will contact the Chairman, Mr. Stone, and let him know of your interest, and see what his thoughts are.

- (JM) We need to work harder on building our Surplus account, rather than using it to balance our budget all the time. Overall we need to change our philosophy on how we spend our money.
- Mr. Kent thanked the Board of Selectmen in their workings with the school budget process and recent event with the I pads
- (PB) Eventually technology will be the norm, but we don't have the money for it at this time. You need to look at cost versus benefit.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 7:00pm

Adjourned Meeting at 8:45pm, 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

Storm Water Bylaw

Solar Bylaw

William A. Trotta
Chairman

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Vice Chairman

John F. Malone
Clerk