



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, March 5, 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 7:05pm.

Budget discussion with School Committee

- Robert Pelczarski stated we are looking out for the welfare of our town and our school. What is the status of our town budget?
Rich Fenton from Finance state that we are \$571,000 deficient. We are looking at severe budget reductions and non-discretionary inc. of \$153,000
- We cannot cover the non-discretionary budget. We have \$54,000 available if we level fund. Include WRSD without COAL and we have \$571,000 which wipes out our budget.
- Robert Pelczarski stated that the town has a revenue problem not a spending problem.
- (PB) The 48% that the school is looking for from the town's revenue is not all revenue. A 2% inflation budget is proposed over a 7.4% by WRSD. Revenue sharing for 2014.
- Robert Pelczarski agreed that the figures that were provided were correct and that he will support what WRSD requests.
- (WT) Regionally the Boards of Selectmen said that we could not afford the iPad's.
- Robert Pelczarski asked for a plan and provided a four year plan including one coach and 3.1 million dollars total.

- (WT) Continue spending in the town and the school, so we have to wear two hats. Advocate for the children but also have to look out for the town.
- Robert Pelczarski replied without this budget we are looking at cuts. He provided comparisons of spending on schools by other towns. The school is also now in the GIC program. WRSD is cutting energy consumption.
- (WT) Take a low bid rather than the best, and you bring in the best results. As a member of both teams we cannot afford this today but maybe at a later time. Ask for a level budget, but know that some things cannot be level funded.
- (JM) WRSD asked for 48%. We found that revenue numbers being used by WRSD are not correct.
- Robert Pelczarski state that per Tom Pandiscio the revenue is a model and if the revenue based is lower than percent needed, they would increase the percent required to meet their budget.
- (PB) Just keep in mind that we do not have the money.
- Robert Pelczarski stated that will be looking at cutting 44 teachers, which will be AP music, languages and arts. The town cannot support the budget and I understand that.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 22, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Lions Club

- Request from the lions club to plant trees on PCS property for an Arbor Day project; Approved.

PCS March Madness

- PCS request notice to be put on board outside the Town Hall for the March Madness event. Approved.

Tea Party

- Voter ID as a ballot question. Looking for approval of a non-binding referendum question to show a valid ID to show that they are citizens.
- Protect rights
- Motion – proposed
- (WT) If law passes the state will have to come up with the monies. Put on the ballot to give people a chance to vote.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to bring to a Town Meeting for a non-town Election. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- The DPW conducted OSHA 10 training last week which is requirement of the department every two years. Every DPW employee took part in this two day training.
- At your request the Assessor mapped (attached) the parcels that the Town has taken possession of under land taking.
 - Looking to sell tax possession land, but wait on Hill St property for the Light Department with the solar project.
- With the assistance of the Treasurer we have put together a Health Insurance policy for acceptance by the Board. Going forward this will provide a clear direction for the Treasurer to follow. I am asking that the Board take the time to review this document between now and the next regular meeting so that this policy may be adopted or revised.
 - Insurance policy - look into having a probation period of 3 months for a new employee.
- At your last meeting the False Alarm Bylaw Selectman Trotta had a question regarding the regulation governing the alarm systems. I have reviewed the 2002 bylaw, a copy of which is attached and discussed this with both the Police and Fire Chief. The Police Chief states that he follows the bylaw that is in place. The Fire Chief has provided a memo outlining his current procedures. As a background to this bylaw, this was initiated at the time by a selectman and meetings between the selectman and the public safety group did take place after the acceptance of the bylaw. I was able to find a copy of one such meeting but possibly other meetings and any acceptance of regulations may not have been put into writing at the time.
- A request for continuity of government was also requested at your last meeting. Please see the attached chart.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:00pm

Adjourned Meeting at 8:30pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant
From the noted of Carol Riches in my absences

Documents filed with Meeting Minutes:

Agenda
Attendance list

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Town Administrators Update

William A. Trotta
Chairman

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Vice Chairman

John F. Malone
Clerk