



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
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dparsons@townofpaxton.net

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

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

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

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Chairman announced that the Public Session will be at the end of the meeting and to please hold all questions until that time.

Appointment of David Keller

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the appointment of David Keller to Detective for the Paxton Police Department. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Budget discussion with Department Managers

- **(PB)** Made a statement in response to the many letters, emails and cards that have been received from town residents in regards to the current budget situation and the potential loss of some departments. Currently two proposals have been mentioned. Either cut every department 6.6 % or eliminated some departments all together. I would like to propose a third option that all Public Safety Departments are cut 4.5% and the remaining departments an additional 12%.
- **(JM)** I suggest that we cut nonpublic safety issues. I do not want to cut the library. I want residents to stop the school increases. I would like to hear from each department what these cuts will do.
- **(FG)** We need to look at what each cut will do, and understand that the school will only increase its numbers again next year, but we cannot afford these continued increases. There has been a new committee put together that includes a school committee member with a member of the Select Board that will look at how to handle things in the future (this committee will meet in August).

Mark Savasta - Paxton Police

- Mark spoke on behalf of the Police Chief, and explained the cuts that the Police Department will have to make. Overtime will be reduced to 19,000, which means that we cannot guarantee 24 hour coverage. Eliminate ½ of our cell phones. Cuts to cruiser maintenance. Cut ½ of the network budget. Cut gasoline budget to 12,000, which gives us 237 gallons per month, which allows us to patrol only 36 miles per shift. Additional cuts will be made to office supplies, training, booking supplies and parts. There will be more single man shifts than in the years past.
- (PB) How do we handle vacant shifts?
- Mark stated that we rely on Mutual Aid and State Police.
- (FG) What about AMC?
- Mark replied they are mainly Public Safety Officers that are not sworn officers that cannot cover. The 2 Officers that are up there are to supplement our services

Donna Couture – Town Accountant

- My budget is mainly salary, so whatever limited supply budget she has will be gone.

Mike Putnam - DPW Superintendent

- I have been asked to cut 31,000 from my budget. The Water Department would be able to subsidize some of these cuts, but I am still looking at cutting line painting. Only the Yellow center lines will be painted. Rental account completely gone. There will be 6,000 cut from safety supplies. We will use Chapter 90 money to help out, which is not our intent. We will only be able to do about ½ mile of road repair a year at the rate we are going.
- (PB) The Highway Department would be considered part of Public Safety which I would only cut 4.5%.

Jay Conte – Fire Chief

- Presented budget cuts for Fire and EMS. In speaking to the Police we have agreed that dispatch is number one. It must be staffed 24/7, 365, no matter what, because it effects so many departments. On the EMS side 15,000 would be cut from Purchase Services. Radio Maintenance cut in ½. Stretcher maintenance would be zero. A total of 8 de-fibs would be taken out of service. I would like to get \$5,300 back to cover the maintenance of the di-fibs, stretchers and radios. On the Fire side we have taken out cell phones. 100% of the recruit training budget and the hose replacement has been cut. Pagers and portable radios have been cut by 4,800. Mobile radios have been cut 100%. We can respond on the fire side, but EMS really needs some funds put back.
- (PB) What training is considered mandatory?
- Jay Conte replied the SCBA's are done quarterly. CPR and Di-fib are mandatory along with First Aid and Driver Operator Training.

Dee Malone – Town Treasurer

- Dee presented the question what would happen if we just didn't pay Wachusett?
- (FG) We are locked in and we would go to court, because 4 out of 5 towns have agreed.
- Dee Malone proceeded with her department cuts which include, postage and supplies and

reducing the Assistance position from 19 to 15 hours.

Jerry Ryan – COA Director

- Stated that they assist 950 seniors for 260 days out of the year. There are about 75 to 80 people that we have constant contact with. The cuts we are looking at would be putting out a newsletter every other month versus every month. Cutting the van and outreach services. Routine building maintenance has been cut, and our state aid has been cut by 21% as well.
- (FG) What are your critical services?
- Jerry Ryan stated that the van service would be.

Charles Innis – Library Trustee

- This cut could possibly present a problem with our certification. That means that if we do not have certification we cannot borrow material from other towns. We are looking at a cut of \$10,700. \$3,000 would come from hourly employees, which would result in closing another 5 additional hours a week. \$4,000 would come out of Purchase Services, and the remainder would be a cut to books. We are able to take this because we know that the town needs it. However closing the library would be a disaster to the town as far as real estate is concerned. People will not want to move into a town that does not have a library.
- (PB) It is my understanding that as long as we do not single out the library and that your cuts are even to the rest of the town we can get a waiver.
- (JM) I have been quoted as saying we should close the COA, Recreation and library. I tried to get things stirred up, so that the people of this town would come together and help solve this problem.
- (PB) I don't want to see us propose cuts that we don't intend to keep.
- (JM) I didn't, but I am looking at a life versus a book. Let me ask. Can the trust be used to run the library?
- Charles Innis replied no not as an operating budget.
- (JM) Can the trust be used for maintenance, or to run the library?
- Charles Innis replied that the trusts are to be used to make improvements to the library.
- (JM) Are you still planning to install the elevator?
- Charles Innis replied that those plans are on hold right now.

Paul Riches - Recreation

- The recreation budget can be somewhat self-funded, but we do need some funds from the town. Some programs make a little money, some lose money, but most of the programs just break even. Recreation does support quality of life, but Public Safety is important.

Susan Stone – Town Clerk

- It's difficult to hear about the Public Safety cuts. Cuts to the Town Clerk, Registrars and Elections budgets have been made where there are non-mandated items by the state.

Kathy Stanley – Assessors

- Again cuts have been made where there are non-mandated items by the state.

Donna Couture remarked that they may want to look at increasing the Reserve Fund because that will be needed even more so this year than in the past. We balance every year with our Free Cash.

Appointment of the Public Safety Officers

- Mark Savasta presented the Board of Selectmen with the following list of individuals to be appointed as Public Safety Officers.

Shawn Davis – Full Time
Thomas O'Neil – Full Time
David Warren – Full Time
Paul Ciance Jr. – Part Time
James Early – Part Time
John Jovan Jr. – Part Time
Kevin Mailman – Part Time
Gino Molinari – Part Time
Rachel Pawlina – Part Time

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the appointment of the Public Safety Officers. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Special Municipal Employees

- Fire Chief Jay Conte spoke to the effect that State Ethics noted that a call fire fighter who had a business in town may have a conflict. This posed a question for the entire department so in speaking with Town Counsel it is recommended that everyone current and future employees should be made Special Employees. This would cover about 98% of the department. There are a couple of individuals that need to do some other things, but this will cover most of us. Town Counsel is currently working with three other members doing something different. **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to make all on call and part time employees of the Fire Department both present and future Special Municipal Employees. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 2, 2012 and July 11, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Open Warrant for Special Town Meeting

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to open the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting and to close it on August 6, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

End of year transfers

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the following end of year transfers. Unanimous, all in favor.**

<u>Account transferred to</u>	<u>Account transferred from</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0100-1145-5200-0000	0100-1145-5103-0000	249.33
0100-1295-5103-0000	0100-1295-5200-0000	248.00
0100-1155-5200-0000	0100-1122-5103-0000	220.00
0100-1295-5200-0000	0100-1192-5103-0000	296.00
0100-1210-5400-0000	0100-1210-5153-0000	
	0100-1210-5105-0000	
	0100-1210-1503-0000	363.14
0100-1292-5200-0000	0100-1192-5400-0000	55.00
0100-1610-5200-0000	0100-1610-5400-0000	31.45
0100-1910-5208-0000	0100-1910-5209-0000	81.19

New Bandstand and Snack Shack

- Special mention and thank you was given to all of those individuals that participated in building these new structures for the town.

Town Administrators Update

1. We received two bids for Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel and #2 Fuel Oil. Peterson Oil Company submitted the lowest bid for a fixed rate of \$3.05 and \$2.98 respectively.

Requested motion: To accept the Peterson Oil Company bid for Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel in the fixed amount of \$3.05 and for #2 Fuel Oil in the fixed amount of \$2.98.

Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the Peterson Oil Company bid for Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel in the fixed amount of \$3.05 and for #2 Fuel Oil in the fixed amount of \$2.98. Unanimous, all in favor.

2. We have received notification that Mass DOT has reviewed the Project Notification Forms for both Richards Avenue and Holden Road and are recommending moving forward with a Project Initiation Form for the reconstruction of Holden Road. Mass DOT does not plan to take any action regarding the reconstruction of Richards Avenue until there are approved conceptual plans for the area.

Mike Putnam further state that Holden Road has now moved to the next stage for review which will be this Thursday. The road is currently 26 feet wide and the look at widening it 30 feet. The town would need to come up with 25% of the cost for the design, which would be in excess of \$300,000. This is similar to the Grove Street project. This is a project that our department would never be able to handle. At this time Mike also requested the Boards signatures for the project request on Asnebusmskit Road.

Police Chiefs letter of disclosure

- (PB) Presented a letter of disclosure that was provided by the Police Chief.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to have a letter written up in regards to the information provided in the letter of disclosure from the Police Chief and the Board will approve and sign the letter. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Correspondence

- (PB) We received a letter from Paxton Little League thanking Chief Desrosiers for all the work that he did in helping to construct the new Bandstand and Snack Shack.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday July 30, 2012, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:36pm, 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:

Appointment list of Public Safety Officers

Police Chief Letter of disclosure

Town Administrators Update

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Frederick G. Goodrich
Clerk