



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 1, 2012

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

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

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Steven Mucci

- (CR) The Police Chief has confirmed that Kimberly Fountain does want health insurance, and that Steven's benefits will be paid through the Anna Maria College Grant.
- (PB) I still have a concern about setting a precedent for other employees. There is no guarantee that he will come back to work for Paxton when he is done with school.
- (FG) We have broken precedents before. I tend to believe that he will return and that he is appreciative of this opportunity.
- (CR) AMC will be looking for a new officer in February, so this falls in line.
- (PB) Let's close this discussion. The chief has already gone ahead with this. What's done is done, but at least we had our discussion.

Ben Bassett Spook Walk

- Mr. Bassett presented a plan to have a nonprofit Spook Walk set up. This would be similar to what was done in the past. All donations would go to support the music and art program for Paxton Center School.
 - The event would take place on October 27th and 28th from 6pm to 10pm.
 - This would be located in the parking lot and roadway to the pond at PCS.
 - The walk will take about 10 minutes, and groups of 6-8 people will be guided through every 5 minutes.
 - All electricity will run from preexisting outlets.
 - Police detail will be provided.

- Concessions will be offered by PTO and potentially Lions Club
 - People will work on a volunteer basis as guides, actors, set up personnel and general supervision.
 - Lines will be monitored to accept donations and glow sticks will be offered to younger guests. The first hour may be dedicated to younger kids.
 - Looking to local business to sponsor event.
- (PB) Questioned what the estimated cost would be?
 - Mr. Bassett replied about \$2,000 to pay for supplies.
 - (PB) Do you have a rain date in mind?
 - Mr. Bassett replied most likely the weekend after.
 - (JM) Are you looking to make this an annual event?
 - Mr. Bassett responded that yes, he would like it to be.
 - (PB) Contact Chief Conte, just so he is prepared.
 - Mr. Bassett stated that he will do some local advertising as well.
 - (JM) Please inform Sherry's House, perhaps they would like to bring up some of the kids.
 - **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the running of a nonprofit Spook Walk. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Michael Hannon of Design with Nature

- Mr. Hannon is working with Clark Realty to develop a 1 Mega Watt Solar Farm off of Davis Hill Rd. Mr. Hannon has returned with some additional information. The developer is looking to extend 3-phase power to the site at own expense. The developer has proposed to sell electricity to the Paxton Municipal Light Dept. for .05/kWh, with an annual escalator of 1.5% through a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement. The developer is seeking a 10 year exemption from taxation on the solar farm, and then prepared to negotiate a PILOT or tax rate. In speaking to Greg DeStasi the price of .05/kWh would meet his modeling for solar generated energy.
- (JM) We need to do what is best for the town in order to keep the electric rates down. I would need to hear from Greg as to what the final results are.
- (FG) I spoke to Greg as well and again we are waiting for MMWEC to get back to us, and then we need to have a long discussion on the tax credit.
- (PB) As soon as we hear from Greg the Light Commission and the Assessors we can bring everyone together and meet.

Paxton Garage

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to have the Chairman sign the contract agreement with Paxton Garage. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Discuss the Emergency Manager Position

- (FG) Filling this position is difficult. Of the 2 candidates neither was able to completely answer the questions that were asked.
- (PB) Could you please specify?
- (FG) Emergency care and evacuation. Neither candidate mentioned shelter which poses some concern to me. I would go with the second candidate knowing that he needs to separate himself from the Fire Department in an Emergency situation.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to hire Michael Pingitore as the Emergency Manager. Unanimous, all in favor. Open for discussion.**
- (JM) I would first like to thank both applicants for coming. I would like to say however that the first candidate did answer the questions in very general terms, and I would agree that he 2nd candidate would need to sit down with everyone and be very specific about his responsibilities. He needs to be strong enough to take on the personalities of this town and follow the manual.
- (PB) The position needs to stand alone. I feel that not all questions were fully answered, but he will learn as he goes. We will bring him in and discuss this. Please send a thank you letter to both candidates.

Tow Administrators Update

- The Fire Department received notification last week that they were unsuccessful in their application for a FEMA Grant to support the three year IMS Software contract \$30,000 (FY14-FY16). Apparently there were over 1,400 applicants requesting federal funding of \$148 million.
- Free Cash has been certified by the DOR in the amount of \$389,222. This figure is an increase over last year due to the Ice Storm Reimbursement of \$214,477 and the additional unused state aid received in October of \$33,094. Last year's Free Cash was \$196,154, without these two one off payments the Free Cash would have been \$142,222.
- The Paxton Center School third grade visited the Town Hall and all Town Hall personnel gave the students a rundown of the workings of their individual department. I would like to thank all Town Hall employees for taking the time out of their day to do this and to Anita and Richard Fenton for providing the historical back ground.
- At your last meeting a request was made for an update of how the fiscal year 2013 budget are affecting our departments, I review the weekly report made available by the Accountant and have a close working relationship with Donna Couture, so as be made aware of any potential problems.
The information I have to date from the departments:

Police

Five sick days per officer are usually budgeted; this year this has been reduced to zero, therefore no backfill
Sixty days are without police coverage
Neighborhood patrol is down

Training reduced so certain elements of training will not be in compliance
Cruisers deteriorating (recent purchase a part from a junk yard rather than new)

Fire & EMS

EMS purchase service account is being monitored as this was the account that was reduced by \$10,876 to reach the 6.6% reduction for Finance.
No other major problems

DPW

Encountering no problems at this time.

MIS

This account continues to be a problem, and only has \$3,700 remaining.

Other Departments have not reported any problems at this time.

- Cable Survey - we have 100 surveys that have been returned so far. This information is important to the contract renewal.

Other Business

- (FG) Provided and update on the PILOT Committee.
 - There will be an IT meeting on Wednesday, October 3rd. A proposal should be soon to follow.
 - AMC students are helping out in the school libraries.
 - Internship/work-study for the Town Hall needs further work. Moving towards an internship which will take more time to set up and the Town Clerks office is in need of immediate assistance.
 - The Police and Fire are going fine.
- (JM) I would like to extend our condolences to Eva Ryan for the recent passing of her mother.
- (JM) Real Estate taxes are due today.
- (JM) I would like to ask the Boards opinion about the Ambulance in Conway NH, and if you feel that we should pursue it at a Special town Meeting?
- (FG) The Capital Improvement Committee did discuss this and they do support it with funds being used from depreciation rather than Free Cash.
- (JM) We should check to see if it is still available.
- (CR) Another town has already scheduled a Special Town Meeting in order to purchase this ambulance.
- (PB) Free Cash needs to go back into Stabilization.
- (JM) A mechanism needs to be put into place to put money automatically into the Stabilization account.
- Discussions were held about the school budget and school committee members heading into the next fiscal year.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2012, at 7:00pm.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to enter into Executive Session at 8:37pm and will only be returning to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Adjourned Meeting at 8:40pm, 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

Spook Walk

Paxton Garage

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Frederick G. Goodrich
Clerk