



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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2013

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.

DPW Budget

- Michael Putnam presented his budget for the DPW. We are back to FY13 numbers.
- **(PB)** I know your blacktop schedule is behind. How far behind are you?
- Mike replied we are about 5 or 6 years behind.
- **(PB)** Should you just start with a new schedule now?
- Mike stated that they are doing 1 or 2 roads at the most each year. All the roads are coming up together now that need to be done. Black top prices have not increased much over the past few years, but we haven't been able to keep up with the schedule.
- **(PB)** How many roads did you do last year?
- Mike replied that they only completed Asnebumskit and we have been working on part of Marshall St as we can.
- **(PB)** Without the \$150,000 again what would you be able to do this year?
- Mike stated that they would do one road again, which would be either part of Camp or Brigham.
- Mike presented the board with an opportunity to move forward on the project for Holden Rd reconstruction. The state wants to see 25% of the design cost put in, in order to move to the next phase. Mike would like to use \$40,000 out of the Chapter 90 funds to pay for this and then pay the balance next year. This will get the survey and first part of the project done. The project is still 2 to 3 years out. When the project is complete it will be a 1.6 to 2 million dollar project that we will have put about \$200,000 into.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) approved the use of Chapter 90 funds to move forward on the Holden Road project. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (PB) Snow and Ice has been overspent. Where are you?
- Mike stated that \$35,000 was added to the budget. We are over in salt and sand. After tonight's storm we should be online with the overtime account.
- (PB) What about the new mix? Is it sufficient?
- Mike replied that the new mix is more expensive but you also use less of it, and there is nothing to clean up in the spring, but we are still working with this to find the best mix.

Recreation budget

- Paul Riches and Chuck Putney were present to discuss the budget for the Recreation Department. Paul Riches reviewed the areas in which they were able to reduce their budget in order to provide an increase in salary to the Recreation Directors position, and still have an overall reduction in there budget.
- (JM) How did you arrive at the amount in which you increased the Recreation Directors position?
- Paul Riches replied that they looked at what they were able to cut from the budget and are also looking at maybe adding an incentive to the position as well.
- (JM) I would like to commend you on a job well done.

COA budget

- COA Director, Jerry Ryan presented his budget. The Finance Committee has approved his budget at \$57,316 which is at the FY12 level. I have made an increase to the donation amount for meals to Worcester Senior Services. I have increased my maintenance budget in order to repair some items in the building. I have increased the postage for the newsletter which has not been increased for some time. As of this afternoon we have a resident that needs handicapped transportation which will add an additional increase to the budget as well.
- (FG) Has there been any discussion in closing our site for the meals on wheels?
- Jerry replied that there is a lack of meals being put out, so they are looking at possibly closing our site. People are just not coming here anymore for lunch, but the meals on wheels will continue.
- (JM) Do we have any alternatives?
- Jerry stated that there other communities that run their own lunches.
- (JM) What about a joint effort with AMC or a town like Holden or Rutland?
- (FG) We have tried that in the past and there is an unwillingness to travel to another town. I'm sure that AMC would be amicable in working with us on this.
- (JM) If the meal program is going to be cut off I would to have Carol and Jerry look into other options.
- (JM) You have given the outreach coordinator and the van drivers a raise?
- Jerry replied that it just brings them back to last year's levels.
- (JM) Could you talk to the post office to see if there is any way to lower the postage on the mailing of the Senior Newsletter?
- Jerry stated that he currently does a bulk mailing to 600 senior residents.
- (CR) The Town will take over the maintenance portion of the COA budget. They are already considered one of the town buildings that we take care of that.

- **(FG)** Expressed a concern over having people that are utilizing the basement be in areas that they should not be. A discussion in sued about how people enter an exit the building and that if they are utilizing the basement they should use the direct access in and out of the building.
- Jerry expressed that at night the back parking lot is very dark, so people would rather come in and out the front entrance.
- **(JM)** directed Jerry to speak with Greg Destasi about getting some lighting in the back parking lot.

Bids for leasing 10 West Street

- One bid was received for the leasing of the building at 10 West Street. The bid came in from Jim Laingor the current owner of the Land and Sea Market. Mr. Laingor is interested in moving to a new location, and feels that the property at 10 West St. would be beneficial to both him and the town.
- **(JM)** Is he putting up any kind of a bond?
- **(CR)** No, that has not been discussed.
- **(FG)** Mr. Laingor is requesting that the 1st payment be held off until 1/1/2014, due to his cost for renovations. I would suggest that he start at \$250.00 a month until 1/1/2014 and then go the \$500.00 a month.
- **(JM)** Mr. Laingor needs to provide us with what his estimated cost of renovations are going to be and what exactly he intends to do. Concern over the town's future use of that building since it is part of the renovation plan for the Town Hall.
- **(FG)** He should be made aware of the Town Hall plans, but nothing will happen soon.
- **(JM)** Concerned about safety as far as the neighbor that is next to the Town Hall and the traffic entering and exiting this building.
- **(FG)** Concerned about the area leading from the back parking lot into the parking lot of the Paxton Market Place. That needs to be closed off so that vehicles cannot get from one lot to another.
- **(PB)** I feel that this is worth moving forward on, and would like to meet with the MR. Laingor.
- **(FG)** Does he have insurance?
- **(CR)** He would have renters insurance from his current place of business. I also told him that he would need to speak to the Building Inspector and may need a Special permit as well.

Recommendation from the Capital Improvement Committee

- **(FG)** The Capital Improvement Committee is making the following recommendation.
 2 cruisers for the Police Department
 A 350 Ford pickup for DPW
 Funds towards the purchase of a vehicle for Fire
 Rescind the Capital Outlay and replace it with the Capital Improvement
 Present the Capital Plan
- **(JM)** Why are we not leasing the police cruisers?

- **(FG)** Leasing would cost about \$6,000 more in interest than buying them directly.
- **(JM)** Concerned that we are not putting anything back into the Depreciation, and why take out more than what we need. We are not committed to replenishing the account.
- **(FG)** If we had been able to follow the plan that was in place we would not be in this situation. The intention was to have this account so we would not have to lease or borrow.

Auditing Services for the Town

- **(PB)** It was nice of Bill Fraher to lower his fee, but I still agree with Mr. Goodrich that we should change auditors every so often.
- **(FG)** Bill does a good job for the town, but I think it is healthy to make a change every so often, and to have another set of eyes to look at things.
- **(JM)** I don't think that we should move right now. We should look at this in another year or so.
- **(CR)** I can see both sides. Maybe you would want to consider a one year contract.
- **(JM)** Only recently was this discussion brought up, and I feel it would cause a disruption in the Town Hall.
- **(PB)** I still like the lower fees, and feel we should go with a new auditor.
- **(FG)** I agree.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) in favor of appointing Scanlon as the new audit for the Town under a 1 year contract. Peter Bogren and Frederick Goodrich in favor. Jack Malone Opposed. 2:1 motion passed.**

Richards Memorial Library

- **(PB)** Any discussion as to regionalizing the library?
- **(FG)** I don't think that it would be easy. The CWMARS program eliminates the need to have a central library.
- **(JM)** We could charge a fee to nonresidents that want a membership.
- **(FG)** There are a lot of components to look at, and it could make this very difficult.
- **(PB)** We will pass this over at this time.

Review warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting

Article 1.

Budget

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #1. All in favor.

Article 2.

Money from available funds

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept this as article #2. All in favor.

Article 3.

Free Cash

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #3. All in favor.

Article 4.

Police Cruiser

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept this as article #4. All in favor.

Article 5.

DPW Pickup Truck

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept this as article #5. All in favor.

Article 6.

Fire Department

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept this as article #6. All in favor.

Article 7.

Bay Path renovation project.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #7. All in favor.

Article 8.

Water Tank

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept this as article #8. All in favor.

Article 9.

Open Government Act

Jack Malone recused himself from this vote.

Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (WT) to accept this as article #9. All in favor.

Article 10.

Rescind Capital Outlay

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #10. All in favor.

Article 11.

CIPC bylaw

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #11. All in favor.

Article 12.

Chapter 90

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #12. All in favor.

Article 13.

Revolving Funds

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #13. All in favor.

Article 14.

WRSD

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor. Per review by Town Counsel.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #14. All in favor.

Article 15.

WRSD

Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor. Per review by Town Counsel.

Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #15. All in favor.

Article 16.

WRSD

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor. Per review by Town Counsel.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #16. All in favor.

Article 17.

WRSD

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor. Per review by Town Counsel.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #17. All in favor.

Article 18.

WRSD

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the article as written. All in favor. Per review by Town Counsel.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept this as article #18. All in favor.

Close Annual Town Warrant

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Unanimous all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2013. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2013. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- Emergency management
 - The Emergency manager has received a donation of \$1,500.00 to be used towards CERT and CPR training. As with our policy I ask that the Board accept this donation on behalf of the Emergency Manager. If accepted this generous gesture by one of our Paxton residents will be put to good use. **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the donation of \$1,500 given to the Emergency Manager. Unanimous, all in favor.**
 - (FG) Send a letter of gratitude
- Senior Residential Development

The developers of the proposed senior residential housing on Grove Street / Holden Road began work today. This is a private development that has satisfied the requirement to receive a building permit from the Town's Building Inspector.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2013, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:25pm, 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

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Frederick G. Goodrich
Clerk