



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2013

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

Members Present: John F. Malone, Chairman
Peter Bogren, Jr, Vice Chairman
Julia N. Pingitore, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Ambulance Contract

- **(JM)** There will be no questions taken from the public during this meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please address them to the Town Administrator, and she will respond back.
- We have had a change in the recusing process since our last meeting to which I will let Mr. Bogren and Mrs. Pingitore explain.
- **(PB)** stated that “I am recusing myself of any and all further discussions and negotiations involving the contract between the Town of Paxton and Spencer Rescue Squad. During the Paxton Board of Selectmen meeting of September 19, 2013, and after much discussion had already taken place, it was revealed that a member of the school committee of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is also a member of the Board of Directors of Spencer Rescue Squad. Following the meeting I sought and received counsel regarding a possible conflict of interest should I remain involved in said discussions. I have been advised by counsel that my role of teacher in the above named school district could constitute a conflict of interest and that it is in my best interest to recuse myself from any discussions while the contract is being negotiated”. At this point Mr. Bogren dismissed himself from the table.
- **(JP)** Initially I recused myself for what I thought may be a perceived conflict with my husband being the town’s Fire Inspector. Now that we need a quorum to continue discussions and I see no actual conflict I am stepping back in.
- **(JM)** Stated that no further discussions were held between the Board of Selectmen members in the past week since we have meet.

- **(JP)** I have met with the Fire Department, and we have had a good relationship in the past with Spencer Rescue. Our intent was to at some point in the future take this role on ourselves. I would like to see us continue this relationship at this point.
- **(JM)** Carol and I spent a lot of time last week with those involved. In just the past six months is when most things seem to have deteriorated. I have come to a decision to which I will read aloud. First I would like to thank Charlie and Gary for the letter that was sent following our last meeting.
- Charles O'Connor is a member of the Board of Directors for Spencer Rescue Squad expressed that they would like to establish an Advisory Board that could help with the concerns over communication, and that they agree to waive the \$25,000 in maximum liability that the town would be charged. This should be viewed as a significant good gesture.
- **(JP)** I have heard some concerns from town residents about the obscenity laced email?
- Gary Suter the Director for Spencer Rescue stated that was a mistake it was not an email it was a voicemail.
- **(JP)** Let it be known that it was not an email.
- **(JM)** Asked Selectmen Pingitore what she thought about the Advisory Board to help with communication?
- **(JP)** I think just having a single point of contact in order to streamline things would work.
- Charles O'Connor expressed that the Advisory Board is a working group of professionals that are all working together for the same thing.
- **(JM)** SOP's and Policies and Procedures need to be tightened up a bit. As Chairman I want to see Spencer and Paxton have one of the best ALS services. We will also see that Chief Conte is counseled on what he said.
- **(JP)** I hope that in moving forward we will all be very professional on both sides.
- **(JM)** Read aloud his decision. "At our last meeting on September 9th we agreed to spend the upcoming week to decide whether or not the Town could go forward and continue to operate with Spencer Rescue Emergency Squad. As chairman of the Board of Selectmen I have met several times with Chief Conte, Lieutenant Pingitore and Town Administrator Carol Riches. I now feel that I have a better understanding of some of the problems that the fire personnel are dealing with but I am confident that they can be resolved. For this reason we feel that it is in the best interest of the Town of Paxton to have a cooling off period and begin new negotiations on October 1st. The Town would then be working towards a contract to run until June 30, 2014 with a clause that would allow it to continue for a further six months; should there be no problems. Any subsequent contract would run for a period of one year. I trust that both parties will work together in a cordial manner to reach an agreement that is both amicable and agreeable to both the Town of Paxton and the Spencer Rescue and Emergency Squad with the view to provide the best possible service to the residents of Paxton and Spencer".
- **(JP)** I am in agreement with this. I think it is in the town's best interest to see if an agreement can be made.
- Charles O'Connor stated that I think that we can resolve this before October 1st. It's a business decision and we would like to get it done.
- **(JP)** I know that the Chief has a list of issues that he would like to see worked out. Could we get a list of concerns to Spencer and start working on it?

- Charles O'Connor stated that I have to hear from the Town Of Paxton.
- **(CR)** Could we use the next 14 days to get Spencer our issues?
- Charles O'Connor asked on what date we would have something to address.
- **(CR)** We should have the issues to Spencer Rescue by the end of the week.
- **(JM)** Carol will get with Jay and get back to you either Tuesday or Wednesday and let you know when they will be ready to forward our concerns. Paxton would like to move forward with Spencer Rescue.
- Charles O'Connor asked if the Town Administrator could forward in writing the fact that it will be a nine month contract for the Board to review.
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to continue negotiations with Spencer Rescue in an effort to come to an agreement for the Town of Paxton. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2013, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 7:58pm, 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:

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Julia N. Pingitore
Clerk