



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2013

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

Members Present: John F. Malone, Chairman
Julia N. Pingitore, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Ambulance service

- **(JM)** We are here to discuss our ambulance service with Spencer Rescue Service. As stated in our previous meeting Selectmen Bogren has recused himself from these discussions. There has been no communication between myself and Julia. Julia and Carol have looked over the contract. On September 16th we asked for a cooling off period with Spencer Rescue, and that we would begin new negotiations on October 1st and see if we could run a contract until June 30, 2014. On September 26th we sent a list of concerns over to Spencer Rescue and on September 27th we received a letter from Spencer Rescue regarding the contract.
- **(JP)** Read the letter into the meeting, (letter is filed in the Board of Selectmen's office) which gave the Town of Paxton an October 4th deadline to sign a contract or Spencer Rescue will terminate service.
- **(JM)** Some of the problems we were having with Spencer Rescue was communication and heated discussions. The Labor Day weekend incident was a major problem. The supposed profanity laced email. The Advisory Board does not seem to be getting off the ground, and ALS from Spencer Rescue may have over stepped their bonds at our Public Safety Building. We have not received any response back yet from Spencer Rescue in regards to the letter of concerns that was provided. Therefor I feel that this recent letter comes to us as an ultimatum.
- **(JP)** Spencer Rescue did not want to wait for a cooling off period. We sent them a list of items that were in the contract that we were concerned about. In the past we have been very satisfied with their service. In sending the list over we hoped that it would prompt a conversation and we would work toward settling a contract. This recent correspondence shows that they are not willing to negotiate and the threat of terminating a contract should not pressure me into a contract that

I don't agree with. The Fire Department has prepared themselves for this situation and is ready to handle this without Spencer Rescue. Up to this point Spencer Rescue has provided a good service to the Town.

- **(JM)** ALS was not available to us again this past weekend.
- **(CR)** Disappointed that we couldn't continue discussion with Spencer Rescue but we can't be put on the spot to sign a contract for three years.
- **(JM)** I am disappointed as well that we were given this letter so quickly, and that they did not give us a chance to work this out. I need to ask for a motion so that the Town has coverage.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) that we do not sign the contract to continue service with Spencer Rescue. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **(JP)** Read a response letter into the meeting, (letter is filed in the Board of Selectmen's office) informing Spencer Rescue that we are unprepared to sign a contract at this time therefore ambulance service will be removed from the Town of Paxton as of October 4th. In the absence of Spencer Rescue Service we will follow normal procedures where we will get a paramedic to intercept when needed. We are mandated to provide a certain level of care depending on a patient's condition. This is an interim plan and the Fire Department will continue to work on moving forward while still being fiscally responsible.
- **(JM)** The people of Paxton can be assured that they will not see a change in service. Carol would you please inform the Fire Chief of what has occurred at this meeting.

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

Adjourned Meeting at 7:37pm. 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:

Letter from Spencer Rescue Service

Response letter from the Town of Paxton to Spencer Rescue Service

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Julia N. Pingitore
Clerk