



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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 19, 2014

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

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

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Memorial Plaque dedicated to Frederick Goodrich

- (JM) Presented a plaque that will be hung in the Town Hall in memory of Frederick Goodrich.
- (PB) Read the dedication from the plaque.

Appointment of the Town Treasurer / Town Collector

- (JM) recused himself from this discussion.
- **Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to appoint Dierdre Malone as the Town Treasurer and Collector as of May 13, 2014. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (JP) Details will be determined at the next meeting.
- (PB) Expressed that this is being done due to the passing of the Town Government Act.

Board Reorganization

- (JM) After each election the Board reorganizes
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to appoint Julia Pingitore as the new Chairperson. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (JM) Traditionally the former Chairperson becomes the clerk, so that will leave Peter Bogren as the Vice Chair.
- (PB) I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jack for a great year.

5 Whitney Drive

- Jayne Barnes of 10 Whitney Drive was present to discuss the group home located at 5 Whitney Drive. Mrs. Barnes expressed that my concern is not with the occupant but with the running of the home. Since December the van service that services these children is turning around in our driveways and on our lawns. I have spoken to the van companies and it has gotten a little better. I have spoken

to the police to record this as well. There is also honking of horns when the staff members are coming and going. The overnight and weekend staff is making noise, and I know that there is nothing we can do about the home, but I would like to try and work this through and come to a peaceful resolution.

- **(PB)** Is child safety a concern? Are there speeding vehicles?
- Mrs. Barnes replied yes and that there is yelling and honking and vehicles are in and out. The property is not being maintained. There are broken screens and window shades. I am concerned for the safety of my children. I see one highly functioning resident who is definitely agitated to be there, and has caused some issues in the neighborhood.
- Steve Yerdon the Executive Director from Devereux was present and stated that being a good neighbor is part of our goal. These children are mainly autistic and have severe learning disabilities. The children love the staff. We have spoken to our companies to not turn around in driveways or on lawns and not to speed or turn on car alarms. We are in constant contact with Carol Riches and I have current photos of the house in its current condition. It has been repaired and is in much better condition now then with the previous owner.
- **(PB)** What are the ages of the students?
- Mr. Yerdon replied from 12 to 17 years of age.
- **(JM)** Stated that this is a tough situation and we need to stay civil between the parties. Complaints are justified between what they had and what they have now. Communication is important. The neighbors should not continue to call Mr. Yerdon thought when there is an incident. If feel that the police should be contacted because they are trained to handle these types of situations.
- **(PB)** Do public schools handle the vans?
- Mr. Yerdon, Yes.
- Mrs. Barnes stated that I have contacted the police and Carol whom have all been very attentive but there is not much that we can do. Could we be notified if the consumer in the property changes either in age or situation?
- Mr. Yerdon stated that we handle autistic and intellectual learning disabilities for children ages 12 to 18.
- Mrs. Barnes asked when the lease is up what is your long term plan for Devereux?
- Mr. Yerdon stated that they have no plans to leave.
- Mrs. Barnes asked if there any criteria that they hold for a student to not be allowed in a group home?
- Mr. Yerdon stated that we do not accept children that would be of any danger.
- **(JP)** Hopefully we have come to an agreement to live in peace. To utilize the police in appropriate situations. Either party can contact Carol with any issues.
- **(JM)** We should follow up at a later meeting.
- Mrs. Barnes asked what the appeal of the property at 5 Whitney Drive is for the Devereux School.
- Rachel Antkowiak is a town resident and an employee for Devereux stood up to speak. Most of these kids have no family. Three out of the six that live at the house are nonverbal. These kids deserve to be in a neighborhood and experience what it is like. I have worked an overnight shift and we are very quiet. The house is kept and the lawn is mowed. The staff is trying hard to take the kids out but the neighbors yell at them.
- **(JM)** Let's give everyone thirty days or so to come back and see how this is working.

- Kris Henderson is a Board member at Devereux and she stood up to comment that perhaps in small groups the students could meet the neighbors so that they get an opportunity to understand these kids and feel more comfortable with them.
- **(JP)** At the next meeting both sides will come back with some ways to solve the current issues. Continue to communicate and present any issues to Carol.
- Stephanie Stratton a town resident commented that they may be able to solve the car alarm issue by checking their operating manual to see if the alarm can be silenced.

Congregational Church

- Stephanie Stratton was present to speak on behalf of the church. We hold two main events each year and they are only a couple of month apart. We are looking to move our annual yard sale to June 14th. We thought that we would be able to help Paxton Days. We will supply crossing guards to help people on and off the common.
- **(JP)** There may be a concern over taking away from Paxton Days.
- Stephanie Stratton replied that we would be willing to do what it takes to help each other out.
- **(JM)** Not to compete but to work together and coordinate any concerns over safety.
- **(JP)** Contact Chief Desrosiers to see if he has any concerns.
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to allow the church to use the common for their yard sale with the provision that the church and Paxton Days committee get together and work out any safety issues. Unanimous, all in favor.**

250th Committee

- Anita Fenton is requesting the planting of 1000 daffodils throughout the Town as a beautification project for next year's 250th celebration. A map has been provided to show where we are looking to plant these flowers.
- **(JP)** Please check with the Public Safety Building as far as where these are planted because they do have a professional landscaper that does the grounds there.
- **(PB)** Each department head should be involved as to where the flowers are placed.
- **(JP)** Who will take care of them?
- Anita replied that the ones that take on planting them will help to keep them.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to allow the 250th Committee to move forward with their plan to plant 1000 daffodils as a beatification project for the 250th celebration. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Meeting for June 2, 2014

- Mark Love inquired as to what effect Rutland's motion has on us.
- **(JP)** We will have no further information until after the school committee meets in late June.
- **(PB)** They passed the school budget with the exception of \$300,000 so it has to go back to the school. We have to wait and see what the state does as well.
- **(JM)** On June 2nd we can call the meeting if we do not have a quorum then adjourn to another date to when we have the numbers.

Review of MGL Chapter 40 Section 57

- (JM) This process will make it easier to collect overdue taxes.
- Deirdre Malone expressed that the flow of information needs to come through the Assessors and Tax Collectors offices from the Building Department. In order to get a building permit you have to make sure the property is in good standing.
- (JP) I would be concerned that people would just do the work without getting a permit.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept MGL Chapter 40 Section 57. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Boy Scouts request for signage

- (JP) The Boy Scouts are looking to put up a sign on the common for their pancake breakfast. They do have a car wash sign on the common that they did not ask for permission to put up and that needs to come down.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to allow the Boy Scouts to place a sign on the common until Saturday and then it needs to be removed for Memorial Day. Unanimous, all in favor.**

American Legion request for signage

- The American Legion would like to put up a sign on the common for a chicken barbeque to be held on June 7th and again in July, August and September.
- (JM) Concern over safety with the number of signs being placed on the common. We need to designate a place to put them.
- (JP) Sign cannot be up over the 4th of July.
- (JM) Need dates for future events.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to allow the American Legion to place a sign on the common for their June 7th Chicken Barbeque. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Paxton Days request for signage

- Request to put up banner and road side sign coming into town.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to allow signage on the common and roadsides coming into town for Paxton days. Unanimous, all in favor.**

End of year transfers

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

<u>Account transferred to</u>	<u>Account transferred from</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0100-1292-5200-0000	0100-1292-5801-0001	\$260.00

Employee Health Insurance

- (JM) We need to discuss the current policy and look it over. Employees hired after June 30th will contribute 30% and the town will contribute 70%.
- (JP) Let's table this until the next agenda.

Property access for the Assessor's office

- **(JM)** To allow the Assessors to work with the Fire Department to do property inspections. Give a permit according to the value that it adds to the home and not the actual cost.
- **(PB)** Who would estimate the cost of the improvement?
- **(JM)** The Assessors can assist with that.
- **(JP)** Have the Assessors attend the next meeting and hold off until then.

Building permit fees

- **(PB)** I have a concern over some of the changes. They seem a bit high.
- **(JP)** Some are high.
- **(PB)** Have we justified these raises? Are we just comparing to other towns or are we trying to cover our costs? What is our cost?
- **(JP)** Ask Sheryl to attend a future meeting, so we will pass over until another time.

Storm Water

- **(JP)** We need the town to contribute \$4,000 out of reserve
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to have Carol request \$4,000 out of the reserve account for the Storm Water Coalition. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Future Meeting Schedule

- June 2, 2014 at 7:30 pm after Town meeting
- June 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm
- June 30, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 28, and May 5, 2014. Unanimous, all in favor.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:30pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:15 pm, 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

Julia N. Pingitore
Chairman

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Vice Chairman

John F. Malone
Clerk