



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2015

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

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

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Meet with Wachusett Regional School District Administration

- Darryll McCall opened with the following information.
 1. We will have an increase in staffing.
 2. Concern over proposed 9C cuts.
 3. About 1.1 million dollar shortfall.
 4. We have about 1.3 million to help offset the current budget.
 5. There will be no E&D this year to give back.
- Joe Scanlon broke down the shortfall in further detail
 1. We don't have firm numbers yet on staff step increases and health insurance due to ongoing negotiations.
 2. Transportation is up 1.2 million
 3. Debt assessment is down 1 million
 4. Foundation is up 2 million
 5. Paxton's enrollment percentage will go up again to about 10.1 or 10.2.
 6. For this year we have some money left in salaries and we have stopped spending on technology and maintenance.
- Darryll McCall stated that the budget is still a moving target until we get the state numbers on March 4th.
 1. On February 23rd we are having a budget hearing.
 2. On March 16th we will set the budget.
 3. We are adding 5 new staff members at the high school due to large class sizes.
 4. Three new Guidance / Adjustment Counselors for the Middle Schools.
- (JM) How are we doing with school choice?
- Darryll McCall replied that we have 208 students currently that are school choice. That number should go down a bit again this year.

- **(JP)** Who are the new staff members?
- Darryll McCall stated one each in Math, Science, Social Studies, ELL and Health Studies.
- **(JP)** Could you use an aide instead of five teachers?
- Darryll McCall replied that you actually get more for your money by bringing in a full certified teacher verses and aide. Current staff has a 90/10 split for health insurance and new staff receives an 80/20 split.
- **(JM)** Is any new administration being added?
- Darryll McCall replied yes that there will be a new principle at Chocksett and a new Deputy Superintendent as well.
- **(JM)** How much will it be to cover new staff increases?
- Darryll McCall stated about 3.5% increase. This does not even cover any upgrades to our technology or supplies. We spend \$11,131 per pupil. That is \$3,500 less than the state average.
- **(JP)** Are we spending too much in the wrong areas?
- Darryll McCall replied that the teachers have had no COLA in the last two year, only their step increases, and salaries are the major part of our budget.
- **(JM)** What do the retirees pay for health?
- Darryll McCall replied they have a 90/10 split.
- **(JM)** Would it help to hire a grant writer?
- Darryl McCall replied that considering the family wealth and non-diverse populations makes it harder to get grant money. We are also looking at the foundation formula and how it affects our towns.
- **(JM)** What about the work that is needed at Paxton Center School?
- Joe Scanlon replied that we have identified these areas that need to be looked at. The needs are prioritized by health, safety and security.
- **(JP)** I would like to see the list of projects that you have.
- Darryll McCall stated that once the budget is complete they will come back and do a presentation.

Appointment of Mitchell Rogers as a part time Dispatcher.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to appoint Mitchell Rogers as a part time Dispatcher. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Executive Session of February 3, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:26 pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Town Administrators Update

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons

Administrative Assistant