



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

Monday, February 23, 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.

250th Celebration update

Anita Fenton stated that the Founders Day event went very well and that we are continuing our celebration with events every month. In March we are holding an event at the COA with food music and the viewing of the movie Glory. On April 22nd there will be a musical flute presentation by Strong Eagle. In May the Gravestone Girls will be doing a presentation. The Army Encampment is in June and a town wide scavenger hunt is in July and the parade is in September. We are still looking for ideas for items that can be placed in the town's time capsule.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **Caucus**

The Caucus date has been set for March 4th at 7pm at PCS.

- **Highway Dept.**

The snow has been relentless and we will start to deficit spend on the Snow & Ice Account.

The Highway Dept. has done a tremendous job of keeping on top of snow removal. Hydrants have been cleared and the Fire Dept. did assist with this on Route 122 during evening hours when traffic was less of a hazard.

Just a reminder that we do have a snow ordinance that prohibits snow being moved into the road and cars being parked in the road. The exact wording of this can be found on the front page of the town's website.

- **Legislative Breakfasts**

MMA has arranged the following 8am Spring Legislative Breakfasts; if you have any interest in attending we can sign you up:

March 6, 2015

- **Shelburne**, Shelburne Falls Senior Center, 7 Main Street
- **Webster**, Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 350 Main Street
- **Georgetown**, 3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 1 Library Street

March 13, 2015

- **New Marlborough**, Fire House, 207 Norfolk, South Field Village of New Marlborough
- **Mattapoisett**, Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow Street
- **Melrose**, Perkins Auditorium, Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, 585 Lebanon Street

March 20, 2015

- **West Boylston**, West Boylston Town Hall, 140 Worcester Street
- **Lexington**, Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue
- **Canton**, Town Hall, 801 Washington Street

- **New Assistant Town Clerk**

Adam Menard was just hired as the Assistant Town Clerk. He will be working 12 hours a week in the office.

Public Session

- Pat Belsito and Melinda Johnson spoke on the need to do some upkeep to the Senior Center Building. Comments that were made:
 1. Basement carpet needs replacing.
 2. Heating
 3. Basic cosmetics
 4. General cleaning
 5. Windows and shades

The Friends of the Council on Aging have their annual meeting on March 10th and some ideas could be discussed for future projects that could be worked on.

Anne Gobi and Kim Ferguson

- The following topics were mentioned
 1. The Governor's budget comes out March 4th.
 2. We will continue to advocate for our communities.
 3. Presented a look at our current fiscal and economic outlook.
 4. Discussed the work first initiative.
 5. Disaster Relief. Keep track of storm related costs. Looking to put together all the storms to provide some relief to the towns. Keep us updated on your salt deliveries.
 6. The Foundation budget review is still ongoing. Something will be done with this formula. Health Insurance, IT and Special Education are the

three top items. Schools and towns are coming up with similar issues. We do have towns that benefit from the current formula and don't want anything to change.

- **(PB)** The town has started a WRTA bus service which comes from our MBTA contribution. It would be more cost effective for the town to pay for a cab to transport the people that use the service. I wish someone would look at these types of issues so that we could run them better and help out the towns.
- Anne Gobi was not familiar with this item and Kim Ferguson said she was not aware of the bus service trade off and that they would look into this further.
- **(JM)** Expressed a couple of concerns. First being the water tower project that is currently being worked on in town and that we need assistance with the funding. Also I'm tired of hearing we don't give our schools enough. What if we were to settle on a certain percentage of our town's budget that we could give to the school every year, and then we would all know from year to year what we have to work with.
- Kim Ferguson asked to have that suggestion sent to her in an email so that she can express it at a Foundation meeting.
- **(JP)** Does the tuition of the early childhood center at the Jefferson School cover its cost?
- Kim Ferguson stated that the ECC was originally set up for the IEP students and then the typical kids were brought in to help support the program.
- **(JM)** With school choice does a student from Paxton that goes to another town pay the same as someone that comes into Paxton?
- Kim Ferguson replied that they do. It is around \$5,500.
- Both Reps thanked the Board for the opportunity to come and talk to them and urged them to keep the lines of communication open.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:28 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