



Town of Paxton  
Board of Selectmen  
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## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday, April 6, 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: see Attendee List

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

### **WRSD Budget discussion**

- Joe Scanlan gave a presentation on the Wachusett Regional School Districts budget for FY16. A copy of the presentation is attached.
- (JP) On the topic of transportation the question was asked. Could the cost be split between two companies rather than just one?
- Joe Scanlan replied that they have asked the transportation company to relook at the contract and this might be one area that could come down.
- (JP) Paxton Center School has a lot of kids dropped off at the school. Could this effect out transportation cost?
- Joe Scanlan replied that transportation is set by the total number of children no by the ridership.
- (JM) Could they change the calculation on the distance for transportation?
- Joe Scanlan stated that it could be looked at but you have to be careful where you may be over in one area you may be under in another. That is the nature of being in a district.
- (JM) In looking back a few years the total number of staff at Wachusett has gone from 890 to over 1,000 but the number of students is about the same.
- Joe Scanlan replied that some of this is due to Special Education and additional classroom aides.
- (JP) We have looked into updating the lights in the gym and cafeteria at Paxton Center School, which will cut the electrical cost overall.
- Barbara Renzoni a member of the WRSD Committee commented that perhaps the revolving fund could be used as a source of funds for this lighting project.
- (PB) Asked Mr. Scanlan if he felt this would go until December before it was settled?
- Joe Scanlan replied that he did think we would go into a 1/12 budget situation.

### **WRSD Lease Agreement**

- Joe Scanlan reviewed the updates that have been made to the lease agreement so far. A copy of the lease is attached. Once all the updates are complete the lease will be presented to the School Committee and the Selectboard members of the five towns to them review and approve. Looking to complete this towards the end of April.

### **Open Warrant for Special Town Meeting**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Article 1.**  
Maple Street Water Tank  
**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**  
Selectmen Malone recused himself from this motion.

### **Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to close the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Unanimous all in favor.**

### **Review warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting**

#### **Article 1.**

Town Budget

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #1. All in favor.**

#### **Article 2.**

Wachusett School budget

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #2. All in favor.**

#### **Article 3.**

Bay Path School Budget

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #3. All in favor.**

#### **Article 4.**

DPW

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #4. All in favor. Open for discussion.** Michael Putnam spoke on the need that his department has for a new Mack Heavy Duty Truck. This is to replace a 16 year old vehicle that is rusted out. This vehicle is used all year round and used to plow the main roads. It is questionable as to whether or not our current vehicle will pass inspection.

- (JP) If next year's budget were to go south as this year has would you be able to absorb this payment in your budget?
- Michael Putnam replied that there is not a lot of room in his budget but he would take a look at it.
- (PB) We also need to consider the fact that interest rates will start to go up the

longer we wait.

- (JP) We will make our recommendation on this article prior to the Town Meeting.

#### **Article 5.**

EMS/Ambulance

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #5. All in favor. Open for discussion.** Chief Conte presented the need for a new ambulance for the Fire Department. Last year the ambulance passed inspection only because we were in the process of moving from a BLS service to an ALS service, so if it doesn't pass this year we will be down to one ambulance.

- (JM) What about buying a used vehicle?
- Chief Conte replied that's what I have now and you just end up with someone else's problem and you don't get a warranty with it.
- (CR) What is the life of a new ambulance?
- Chief Conte stated that 10 years is average. The Town has not bought a new vehicle for the Fire Department since the ladder truck in 2003. I'm asking that you not put this on the debt exclusion. It is too important of an item.

#### **Article 6.**

Paint the Town Hall

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) not to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

#### **Article 7.**

Police Cruiser

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #6. All in favor.**

#### **Article 8.**

Capital Depreciation

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #7. All in favor.**

#### **Article 9.**

Water Enterprise

Jack Malone recused himself from this vote.

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #8. All in favor.**

#### **Article 10.**

OPEB Account

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #9. All in favor.**

#### **Article 11.**

Stabilization

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #10. All in favor.**

**Article 12.**

Chapter 90

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #11. All in favor.**

**Article 13.**

Revolving Accounts

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #12. All in favor.**

**Article 14.**

Tax Title Revolving Account

Jack Malone recused himself from this vote.

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) not to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Article 15.**

MGL Ch. 59 Sec 5(54)

Jack Malone recused himself from this vote.

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #13. All in favor.**

**Article 16.**

Town Hall Renovation Committee

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #14. All in favor.**

**Article 17.**

Dog By-law

**Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. All in favor.**

**Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to accept this as article #15. All in favor. Open for discussion.**

- (CR) This is basically just accepting the Mass General Law with an opportunity to revise the fees.
- (PB) Since this is the first we are seeing of this I would like to review it and make a recommendation at a later time.

**Close Annual Town Warrant**

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Unanimous all in favor.**

**Appoint Michael Tremblay**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to appoint Michael Tremblay as a part time Public Safety Officer. Unanimous all in favor.**

**Appoint Andrew Montiverdi**

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

### Sweetpea sign request

- Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the sign request for the common as presented by Sweetpea. Unanimous all in favor.

### Trash Abatement

- Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the trash abatement for Lisa Messier at 839 Pleasant St. (JM) voted to disapprove due to outstanding balance on account.

### 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary announcement

- The next 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event will be a Flute concert given by Strong Eagle April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

### Meeting Minutes

- Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.
- Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Executive Session of March 24, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.
- Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.
- Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Executive Session of April 1, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.

### Social Security

- (CR) We are looking at starting a differed pension program to take place of Social Security for our part time and stipend employees. It does provide some benefits. 1. Lump sum distribution. 2. Funds will go to a designated beneficiary. 3. You can buy back service. The disadvantage is that their social security could be restricted by as much as 2/3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the implementation of a differed pension plan in place of Social Security for all part time and stipend employees of the town as of July 1, 2015. Unanimous all in favor.

### Town Administrators Update

- **Health Insurance Policy**  
We have been approached by an employee who may be considering retiring and his circumstances are such that he would be able to go on our health insurance senior plan but his wife would have to remain on an individual regular plan for a further 18 months.
- The Town has a Health Insurance Policy but this situation is not covered. In order to address this I would ask that the Board consider allowing the spouse to contribute towards a regular individual health insurance plan and treat her the same way as we treat our out of state retirees and allow a contribution by the Town of up to 60% of our retiree contribution plan.
- Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve an individual health insurance plan that will allow a contribution by the Town of up to 60% of our retiree's contribution plan. Unanimous all in favor.

- **Board of Appeals**

We currently have a vacancy on the Board of Appeals; if anyone is interested in joining this board please let me know.

**Correspondence**

- (JP) Read a letter sent from a Town resident expressing their appreciation to the Fire and Police Department for the way they handled a patient taken to the hospital by our EMS staff.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

**Adjourned Meeting at 9:58 pm, Unanimous all in favor.**

**Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:**

Meeting minutes

Agenda

WRSD budget presentation

WRSD lease agreement

Attendance list

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons  
Administrative Assistant