



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2015

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

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

Attendees: see Attendee List

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

Purple Heart Designation

- (PB) Read the Proclamation that was previously signed by the Board.
- Mr. Leo Agnew presented the Town with a certificate of acknowledgement that the Town of Paxton is now a Purple Heart Community.

Discuss the lease for the WRSD

- (PB) The Town of Princeton is taking the position that the lease should not contain a threshold figure for maintenance but rather should have a deductible amount instead. If you have a threshold number it's an incentive to not do the work. I would like to see us support the Town of Princeton's initiative to make the maintenance agreement a deductible amount rather than a threshold and send it back to Carol to on with the other Town Administrators in the district.
- (JM) Princeton is looking at \$50,000 and Paxton at \$35,000?
- (PB) These numbers are up for discussion.
- (JM) Is this a cumulative situation?
- (CR) It is based on a per Capita item, because we do not want to bundle projects together.
- (JM) Will these changes to the lease go through the school committee?
- (PB) Yes, the school committee will have to vote on it.
- (JP) I like this option. We just need to come up with a number that works for Paxton.
- (JM) Does the town that is having the capital project done still contribute?
- (PB) It comes out of the schools budget because it is the districts funds and our assessment would not change. This could take some time to settle with the school department.
- Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to agree to support Princeton's initiative to change to a deductible rather than a threshold with the amount to be determined at a later date. Unanimous, all in favor.

Retirement discussion with Sam Knipe

- Sam Knipe came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the amount of vacation time that he was provided at the time of his retirement. During the time that Mr. Knipe was employed with the town there was a policy change in the way vacation time was accrued. Mr. Knipe expressed that he felt that there was time that was owed to him that he was not provided when that policy change took place and that the Town owed him an additional three weeks' worth of vacation time. Mr. Knipe expressed that "In 2002 I started accumulating my time and did not get the past years' time put forward on my anniversary date in January".
- **(PB)** The first year that you worked there was no vacation so there is nothing to bring forward. When the policy changed you only two hours to carry over from 2002 to 2003 and then you started to accrue at a faster rate.
- **(JP)** I think the initial misunderstanding come in because you had no vacation time the first year.
- **(JM)** When you started the first year you did not get a vacation. When you worked a year you got the whole amount of vacation time to be used for that year on your anniversary date. This carried on until January 2003 when the policy changed which simply let the vacation time accrue rather than in one lump sum. We changed to an earned policy of giving time rather than just giving the time all at once.
- Mr. Knipe replied if the policy didn't change I would still have time.
- **(JM)** But the policy did change.

Sign the Lieutenants contract

- **(PB)** I do have a concern over the AMC contract if that should change. We had previously stated that the Lieutenants position should go back to being a sergeant and I don't see that stated in here.
- **(CR)** We will hold off on this for now.

Request to put up sign for band concerts.

- **(PB)** The request for the sign is to go up at the intersection of 56 and 31 which is private property. Perhaps the hanging one and this one could both go on the common.
- **(CR)** Would it be ok to make that suggestion?
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to allow both signs to be placed on the common to announce the summer band concert series for the Recreation Department.**
Unanimous, all in favor.

Appoint Election Officials

Town Clerk, Susan Stone requested that the Board of Selectmen appoint the following people as Election Officials for the term of July 27, 2015 through July 27, 2016.

- 1. Janice Carlson
- 2. Janet Chapman.
- 3. Nancy Delle
- 4. Gino Gangai
- 5. Paula Gangai
- 6. Melinda Johnson
- 7. Kathryn Kingsbury - Clerk
- 8. Jackie LaFlash
- 9. John Lucey
- 10. Annette McKiernan
- 11. Jane McTigue
- 12. Michelle Nelsen

13. Marguerite Ryan
14. Natalie Siemen
15. Sandra Vaudo – Warden

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the list of appointments as presented by Susan Stone. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the meeting prior to the Reconvened Annual Town Meeting of June 22, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Joint Meeting with Finance of June 24, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the meeting prior to the Reconvened Annual Town Meeting of June 29, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2015 . Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **Health Insurance Policy**

The SJC recently issued a decision that restricts the ability of municipalities and other entities that provide health insurance coverage pursuant to GL C32B to reduce OPEB costs by creating a retiree eligibility rule based on years of service. The Town's policy included this provision, I have therefore amended our policy to delete this section and I ask that you take a motion to accept this revised Health Insurance Policy.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept the revised health insurance policy. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **Stormwater Coalition**

The Coalition recently met to discuss how we continue the stormwater work without the assistance of grant money. It was decided that each town should contribute \$4,000 per year. This will enable the group to continue with:

- Training
- Access to the online mapping and inspection platform
- Inclusion in the next MassDEP/WPI partnership (likely to be focused on defining appropriate disposal or reuse methods for catch basin screenings and street sweepings)
- Access to the water quality kits and meters
- The personnel equipment resources that the coalition has acquired over the past four years.

The Coalition has requested a five year commitment for participants by a vote of their Selectboards. The new permit is expected to be released this year so it is crucial that we have all the support that we need considering we don't have staff dedicated solely to stormwater management; like some other towns have in place

Only recently as a member of the Stormwater Coalition we were entitled to a one on one with Aubrey Strausse, Verdant Water. We used the time to create an Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Plan. This will be a valuable tool to show compliance with the new permit.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to commit to the 5 year agreement and the \$4,000 contribution per year. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission would like to nominate Mia McDonald, Conservation Agent as the designated signer on the warrants for their department. All warrants so signed will be reviewed by the commission at their next regular meeting. If the Board has no objection to this, I would ask that you please take a vote to allow Mia McDonald, Conservation Agent to be a designated signer on the warrants for the Conservation Commission.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve Mia McDonald as the designated signer on the warrants for the Conservation Commission. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **2015 Winter Storm**

I have submitted a request to FEMA for reimbursement for a 48 hour period in January 2015 in the amount of \$21,760. If accepted the Town will be entitled to \$16,320. This claim relates solely to DPW personnel and equipment; standby of emergency personnel is not considered reimbursable.

- **Sergeant Appointments**

I would like temporary appoint Sgt. Lang and Sgt. Silvestri for a further three months to September 30, 2015

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the appointment of Sgt. Lang and Sgt. Silvestri until September 30, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **Lieutenant Appointment**

I would like to appoint Lt. Savasta for three years ending June 2018.

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the appointment of Lt. Savasta until June 2018 contingent on the AMC contract. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **Maple Street Water Tank**

Work has started on the new tank and the pedestal is already complete. Work will soon commence on the tank body.

- **DPW**

The DPW is advertising for a part-time seasonal employee to cut grass as a stop gap to hiring an additional employee at this time. I will be taking in the applications.

- **Recreation Commission**

The Summer Music Series is in full swing and the following concerts will take place 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Band Stand:

July 30th Paul Courchaine

August 6th Elvis – Mike Slater

August 13th Lou and Jan Borelli

August 20th Final Approach

August 27th Josh Huehls and the band Dotch

- **Zip Trip**

Another shout out for the Zip Trip on July 31st at the Paxton Center Fields 5am to 10am. Everyone is encouraged to come out and support the Town and watch the show being produced. There will be celebrities from the show on site and it a unique opportunity to showcase Paxton.

Correspondence

- Announcements for the 250th Celebration
 - August 7th – Paxton Day at the Braveheart's
 - August 11th – Tom Kelleher to speak on being a traveling peddler in the 1800's
- **(PB)** Congratulations to Chief Conte for getting a grant to help with the purchase of a new ambulance for the town.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 5:45pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:18 pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Town Administrators update

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons

Administrative Assistant