



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

**Monday, September 21 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  
  
Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

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

### **Dispatch Appointment**

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to appoint Nicholas Andexler as a part time dispatcher. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Discuss the FY16 budget**

- **(JM)** Presented the tax recap sheets for the five Wachusett District Towns to show that each of the five towns with the exception of Paxton receives funds from the state for land that it is under watershed protection. If Paxton were to receive funds similar to the other four towns then perhaps we would not have the same budget issues that we run into each year with the school. Listed below was the money each town in the district received from watershed protection.

Rutland received	\$525,860 for FY14
Holden received	\$919,616 for FY14
Princeton received	\$255,315 for FY14
Sterling received	\$707,823 for FY14
Paxton received	\$0.00 for FY14

- **(JM)** I have spoken to Representative Kim Ferguson to get a better answer as to who exactly should be entitled to funds from the state for watershed property. Paxton does not have a problem with spending money it has a problem with getting in revenues.
- **(JP)** It would be interesting to see what this does percentage wise for each town.
- **(PB)** We do want to support education so to hear others say that we don't support the

schools is hurtful. We do care about education but we cannot go back to the times when we went without 24 hour police coverage. We've had to tell our seniors that we can't fix the Senior Center because we don't have enough money. The Town of Princeton has also come out and said that at the rate to which the school district keeps increasing their budget each year that it will become unsustainable for them as well. We are willing to work with anyone that has an idea of how to help the Town's situation.

- Richard Fenton, Finance Committee member stated that with the most recent reduction in the school budgets number we are now looking at a deficit of \$149,000.
- **(CR)** Stated that the Town has 45 days to vote. If we don't then we automatically accept the schools new number, so we do want to vote. We have had an increase in new growth of an additional \$20,000 and we are looking at an increase in local revenues as well in the amount of \$33,000. The remainder of the deficit would have to be covered with cuts to the town budget. Rich and I have identified a number of areas that we can cut from. The key is are we going to support the existing assessment or not?
- **(PB)** I would like to know where the existing cuts are coming from before we accept.
- **(CR)** We are looking at October 15<sup>th</sup> for a Special Town meeting.
- **(PB)** We will meet again on September 28<sup>th</sup> to open and close the warrant.
- Richard Fenton expressed that we need a fall back if the school budget passes if we don't support the school assessment.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve October 15, 2015 as the date for a Special Town Meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**

### **Town Administrators Update**

- Community Compact Cabinet. The state would like to see the Division of Local Services and the Towns work together to identify practices that can be worked on and improved upon. This would open up the opportunity for additional grants. Regionalization and cyber security are two areas that I have identified that we could work on. On October 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am we are scheduled to meet and sign the agreement. If the Chairman cannot be present he may designate the Vice Chair to do so.

### **Additional Comments**

- **(JM)** I would like to see a letter of congratulations go out to the new President of Anna Maria.
- **(JM)** I would like the topic of Meal Tax to be placed on the next available agenda.
- **(JM)** The water tower is up and done on the outside. There are just a few items to finish off and once it's complete the old one will be coming down.
- **(JP)** I would like to thank Jack for all the research that he did for the presentation that he made at the beginning of the meeting.
- **(JP)** I would also like to thank Peter for speaking out about the comments that have been made from other people as to the position our town is in concerning the budget.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015 at 7:00pm.**

**Adjourned Meeting at 7:51 pm, Unanimous all in favor.**

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

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Town Administrators Update

Attendance list

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons  
Administrative Assistant