



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 28 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.

Pass over appointment of new Registrar.

Open Warrant for Special Town Meeting

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on October 15, 2015. Unanimous all in favor.**

Review warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting

Article 1.

Wachusett School budget

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

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

(JM) I am not in favor of additional town cuts to support the school budget.

Article 2.

Town budget

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

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

Article 3.

Senior Center roof

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

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

Article 4.

Water Department Receipts

Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to accept the article as written. Selectmen Malone recused himself.

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

Article 5.

Cable Funds

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

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

Meal Tax

- **(JM)** I would like to look at accepting a meal tax. This would need to go through a town vote.
- **(JP)** Is this amount already taken?
- **(PB)** No it would be an additional tax on consumers. This was originally presented to the Board on 2009 and we did not go with it at the time. I'm leery of increasing taxes, but I understand both sides of the issue.

Article 6.

Meal tax

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

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

Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to close the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on October 15, 2015. Unanimous all in favor.**

Voting Machine

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to vote to confirm the original vote to purchase the DS200 Voting Equipment. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to vote to discontinue the use of the OpTech Eagle voting equipment on October 30, 2015 including Hand Count and to utilize the new voting equipment (the DS 200) for the Presidential Primary Election of March 1, 2016 according to MGL chapter 54, section 34.to confirm the original vote to purchase the DS200 Voting Equipment. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **(JP)** What if by the off chance someone at the meeting wants to go for an override? Would we have a machine?
- **(CR)** That should not be a problem.
- **(JM)** Can we sell the old machine?
- Susan Stone, Town Clerk, replied that towns are putting them on their websites, but the equipment is not being supported anymore.
- **(JM)** Look into selling it for parts.

Make recommendation on warrant articles for Special Town Meeting

Article 1.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to open for discussion.

(JM) On the DOE website there is a document that details the budget process for a regional district. This details what the Commissioner will look at in deciding how to set the budget. I feel that the Commissioner should come in and look at the problem. I see this as a learning process and not a threat. I would like direction from the state so we have a plan going forward.

(PB) In my experience when the Commissioner did come in. He sided with the towns but it ended up dividing the town's even more. If the Commissioner votes in favor of the school then I feel that it would push the school towards getting even more in the future. I don't see that having the Commissioner coming in will help us.

(CR) We held a managers meeting last week and the department heads are resistant to additional cuts. However I do not want to see further distance put between us and the other towns and the school. If the Commissioner does vote on the side of the school the budget will increase in the future.

(PB) We are looking at making cuts to the black top, Police and Fire. This is a public safety issue. If our assessment continues to grow then the services will need to be cut. i.e. the Library and the COA.

Harriet Fradellos, School Committee member, stated that she felt it would be beneficial to have the Commissioner come in to give some direction.

(PB) When the Commissioner comes in he says here is the budget now you figure out how to pay for it. In my opinion because the town has already put a plan in place for budget cuts the vote will be on the side of the school.

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. Selectmen Malone voted to recommend disapproval. The vote passes two to one in favor of recommending approval.

Article 2.

Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to recommend approval. Selectmen Malone voted to recommend disapproval. The vote passes two to one in favor of recommending approval.

Article 3.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 4.

Motion (JP) seconded (PB) to recommend approval . Selectmen Malone recused himself.

Article 5.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 6.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. Selectmen Bogren voted to recommend disapproval. The vote passes two to one in favor of recommending approval.

Community Compact Agreement

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to allow Selectmen Malone to sign the Community Compact Agreement on October 15, 2015 in the place of Chairman, Peter Bogren. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appoint Part Time Dispatcher

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

- (JM) asked a question to the Town Administrator as to why we have had some many employees turnover on dispatch.
- (CR) For various reasons, it's not just a revolving door.
- (PB) The Police Chief stated that the pay increase has helped.
- (JP) It's also a matter of picking the right people. This position tends to be a stepping stone.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- Thank you to everyone that took part in the parade on Saturday to celebrate the town's 250th. Especially to Bob Wilby and Anita Fenton.

Public Session

- Resident James Stone questioned why a part time dispatcher was hired versus a full time? In regards to the meal tax how will business be told?
We need to look at setting a plan to bring more business into town.
- (CR) A letter can be sent out to the business owner in regards to the meal tax but it is still up to the town vote.
- (PB) There is a committee already in place, The Master Plan Implementation Committee that has done a great deal of work on setting up a plan for the town's future. I would encourage you to review that plan and consider joining the committee to express any ideas that you have.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:27 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