



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 23 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.

We will enter into Executive Session and will only be returning to the regular meeting for the purpose of signing the Sergeants contract if necessary and to adjourn.

Classification Hearing

- Kathleen Stanley with the Assessor's office presented the Board with four questions that they are required to vote on in order for the Assessor's office to set this year's tax rate.
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the use of Factor 1 to calculate the tax rate. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) that the Town will not provide a discount for Open Space. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) that the Town will not provide a discount for Residential Exemptions. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) that the Town will not provide a discount for Small Commercial Exemptions. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- With these four items voted on a tax rate of \$20.59 was set.
- Kathleen Stanley also wanted to inform the Board that currently 40% of the land in Paxton is classified as exempt.
- The Board signed the tax rate recap.

Insurance Advisory Committee

- Deirdre Malone and Susan Burdett with the Insurance Advisory Committee presented the Board with the employee health insurance renewal for 2016.
- Deirdre Malone stated that the committee would recommend renewing the same plan for the current employees with a 5% increase to the premium. We would also like to

maintain the same plans that we currently have for the retirees which will see a 5% increase to their premiums as well.

- Deirdre Malone expressed that we are putting together a letter to inform the employees that UMASS is providing a 20% discount on outpatient care if paid in full the day of or online within thirty days. If the employee does not provide payment in a timely matter the \$200.00 that would have been saved will now become their responsibility to pay. We are also encouraging people to utilize urgent care facility rather than going to the emergency room for non-life threatening matters. This would also be a cost savings.
- (JM) Do we work with new employees to ensure that there is no overlapping of health insurance coverage?
- (CR) Yes, that is handled when they start.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee for the 2016 employee and retiree health insurance plans. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Discontinuation of trash fees

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to discontinue any future charges for trash removal on the property located at 255 Pleasant Street. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to discontinue any future charges for trash removal on the property located at 23 Burtenmar Circle. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to discontinue any future charges for trash removal on the property located at 53 Camp Street. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Paxton Police change of status

- Chief Desrosiers presented a written request to the Board to change the status of employee Kevin Mailman from a Public Safety Officer to a part time Police Officer.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the request to change the status for Kevin Mailman from a Public Safety Officer to a part time Police Officer. Unanimous, all in favor.**

250th presentation

- (PB) We discussed some time ago that come the end of this year we would like to present the 250th committee with something to show our appreciation for everything that they have done over the past 6 years. Any suggestions?
- (JM) I would like to see a plaque for the Town Hall and then present each member with a smaller individual plaque.
- (JP) I agree with that suggestion.
- (PB) Let's go ahead and get that done and we will present it at one of our regular meetings.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

Wachusett Earthday

I attended the recent Wachusett Earthday meeting and was provided with the attached information. All member Towns will see an increase in their assessment for

FY17. The actual FY15 operating costs were \$25,750, whereas the assessment for FY15 and FY16 has been around \$19,320. This does not indicate that the assessment is expected to increase to the same degree each year. I encourage all residents to use the center to dispose of their unwanted household and hazardous waste items.

Further items of interest from the meeting:

- More volunteers are needed
- Visitors looking to pick up/drop off items should not arrive before the scheduled opening of the center. This causes traffic problems
- ID's must be produced to use the center
- Two additional HHP collection are scheduled for 2016
- Looking to add solar lighting at the center in areas where it is difficult to run wires.
- Looking to schedule "pick up" only events to avoid additional traffic and accommodate groups such as girl scouts, boy scouts & school.

Future Capital Projects

- Install pavilion over hazardous waste collection area – currently exposed to elements
- Shed – for mercury collection
- Top loading disposal system – to assist with bulky goods
- Further site work – gravel
- Pad for Hazardous waste

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission through the Director would like permission to explore the possibility of purchasing wreathes, lights and garland to dress up the lights on the Common (see attached). Additionally, where possible add light around some of the trees on the Common. Also the Tree Lighting will take place on Friday, December 4th at 5:30pm followed by pizza and a movie at the John Bauer Senior Center at 6pm. Cost is \$3 per person, children under four are free.

Lions

The Lions Club is once again requesting whether they can set up a toll road at the intersection of Rt56 & Rt31 on Saturday, December 5th 9am to Noon. The Police Chief has been notified.

DPW

Catch basins have all been cleared.

Maple Street Water Tank

The DEP has approved the use of the new water tank which will be up and running soon and then the old tank will be taken down.

(JM) I would like to thank Carol, Mike and Travis for all the work that they have done on getting this project complete.

Video on demand

Video on demand is now accessible through the Paxton cable website or through the Town of Paxton website as well.

(CR) Thank you to the Town Accountant, Treasurer and Assessor for all the hard work that went into setting the tax rate for this year.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to leave the regular meeting and entered into Executive Session at 7:45pm and we will only return to regular meeting for the purpose of signing the Sergeants contract if needed and adjourning. Unanimous, all in favor.

Return from Executive Session at 7:59pm to vote on contract and adjourn meeting.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to sign a one year contract for Sergeant Lang. Unanimous, all in favor.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to sign a one year contract for Sergeant Silvestri Unanimous, all in favor.

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

Adjourned Meeting at 8:01 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