



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 27, 2017

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

Members Present: Peter Bogren, Jr., Chairman
Julia N. Pingitore, 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.

We will enter into Executive Session and will only be returning to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning.

Discussion about the Senior Center

- Melinda Johnson and Pat Belsito were present to follow up on past issues with the Senior Center Building. Mrs. Johnson expressed that the tiles down stairs and the lower tread still need to be fixed. Both the front and back staircases need a thorough cleaning.
- **(CR)** I will request that the cleaning company take care of that.
- Mrs. Johnson expressed that they have been using the upstairs for yoga because the downstairs is too cold and we need a better heating system for the basement.
- **(JM)** I think we should look at the entire building and see if there is a better way of heating the building all around.
- **(PB)** Jack will look into different heating options for us.
- **(JM)** Directed a question to the audience as to what they think the future of the COA should be.
- Mrs. Johnson replied that a new building is what is needed, but I don't see that happening in my time.
- **(JM)** Will bring this up for discussion at a future meeting to see if some ideas might be addressed as what could be done with the Senior Center and the Town Hall.

Paxton Lions

- Nick Powlovich of the Paxton Lions came in to update the Board on some recent events: The Cable Committee has agreed to have the activity room painted and we are going to put up new window treatments as well. We have recently upgraded the Cable website. We have discovered that the sign in front of the Town Hall is wired but it needs new

lights. We are still looking into planters to go one either side of the sign as well.

- Mr. Powlovich moved onto upcoming events. The Lions requested to use the Town Common for their Annual town wide yard sale and questioned if they needed to close off Richards Ave between Highland and Maple St.
- **(CR)** You should talk to the church first to make sure they do not have any events going on for that day and time.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the use of the Town Common for the Paxton Lions Town Wide Yard Sale. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the request to put up signs for the Paxton Lions Town Wide Yard Sale. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Mr. Powlovich stated that he would talk to the church and then discuss closing off the street with the Police and DPW Departments.

Appointment of Caitlin Cournoyer

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to appoint Caitlin Cournoyer to the Board of Appeals. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Weston & Sampson to discuss Public Works Facility

- Mr. Jeff Alberti from Weston & Sampson gave a presentation for a preliminary feasibility study on the Public Works Facility. (a hard copy of the presentation is available in the Board of Selectmen's office). After the presentation there was a question and answer session.
- **(PB)** How many vehicles do we have to house?
- Michael Putnam, DPW Superintendent replied we have 14 vehicles.
- **(PB)** What is in the employee facility?
- Mr. Alberti replied it houses the lunch/break room, staging room, training room, lockers, showers and toilet facilities for both men and women. Electric room and the janitor's room.
- **(JM)** Will the Water department be housed here as well?
- Mr. Alberti replied, yes, it would.
- **(JP)** Is there a wash bay included?
- Mr. Alberti replied that it does have an indoor wash bay included
- **(JP)** What about the run off
- Mr. Alberti replied that they have factored in a tight tank with a sand and gas separator as well.
- Michael Putnam stated that it also adds an updated fueling station that the whole town could use
- Mr. Alberti added that the fueling station would pay for itself in 4 to 6 years.
- Mr. Alberti concluded with a statement that the article being put forward at the annual town meeting will cover a preliminary site plan, work on a preferred concept and a detailed estimate.

FY18 Budget discussion

- **(JM)** If we look at reducing the RASA only then everything else could stay the same. We need to look at it a different way. We need money for the Town's infrastructure. Take the available funds times 2 ½ percent and tell the school that is what we can afford to go along with.
- Rich Fenton commented that he felt that if we hold the school to 2 ½ percent then we

need to hold the Town to the same. We can ask for whatever number we want. The school will ultimately set the number.

- Mark Love commented that there seems to be two schools of thought. One is that the school is underfunded and the other is that if the Town stays at 2 ½ percent then so should the school.
- **(PB)** This year for the first time we have all five towns in agreement that they cannot sustain the increases that the school keeps placing on their budget.

Review articles for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Article 1.

Water Department

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

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

Article 2.

OPEB Account

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

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

Article 3.

Stabilization

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

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

Article 4.

Chapter 90

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #4. All in favor.

Article 5.

Revolving Accounts

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #5. All in favor.

Article 6.

Road Improvement

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

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

Article 7.

Use funds for road improvement

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

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

Article 8.

DPW pickup truck

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

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

Article 9.

DPW site and design

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

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

Article 10.

Police vehicle, Town Hall exterior, Senior Center windows

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

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

Article 11.

PSC wireless network

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

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

Article 12.

Wachusett Greenways

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

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

Article13.

Marijuana Moratorium Bylaw

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

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

Article14.

Drive through

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

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

Article 15.

Quarterly tax payment

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #15. All in favor.

Article 16.

Wetlands Bylaw

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #16. All in favor.

Article 17.

Meal Tax

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #17. All in favor.

Article 18.

Wachusett Regional School District

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #18. All in favor.

Article 19.

Town budget

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #19. All in favor.

Article 20.

WRSD budget

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #20. All in favor.

Discussion – Rich Fenton updated the Select Board on a recent vote taken by the Finance Committee in regards to putting forward an override for the budget. Some members were in favor of putting the total override amount of \$190,000 all to the school and other members were in favor of splitting the override between the school and the town budget. \$135,000 to the school and \$55,000 to the Town. It was suggested that the COLA be put up for the override. (PB) stated that he would not support putting the Town's COLA up for an override and that it should all go on the school. All Board members agreed.

Article 21.

Bay Path budget

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #21. All in favor.

Article 22.

Out of District student

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

Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept this as article #22. All in favor.

Discussion – (JM) Is there any way to reduce the transportation cost?

(PB) Carol has called other towns to see if we can work together to reduce the transportation cost.

(CR) We do get some of the cost back later on.

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to approve the closing of the warrant for our Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2017. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to place the following ballot question on the Annual Town Election Ballot: Shall the Town of Paxton be allowed to assess an additional \$ 190,092 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Wachusett Regional School District Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and seventeen. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to place the following ballot question on the Annual Town Election Ballot: Shall the Town of Paxton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to conduct a Site Plan and Initial Design (Phase One) of**

a new Public Works Facility. Unanimous, all in favor.

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to place the following ballot question on the Annual Town Election Ballot: Shall the Town of Paxton be allowed to assess an additional \$41,910 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of purchasing a 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility for the Police Department for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and seventeen. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to place the following ballot question on the Annual Town Election Ballot: Shall the Town of Paxton be allowed to assess an additional \$70,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of painting, lead abatement and minor repairs to the exterior of the Town Hall for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and seventeen. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to place the following ballot question on the Annual Town Election Ballot: Shall the Town of Paxton be allowed to assess an additional \$120,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of replacing the windows and minor repairs at the John Bauer Senior Center for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and seventeen. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2017. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to leave the regular meeting and entered into Executive Session at 9:02pm and we will only return to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning. Unanimous, all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:15pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Weston & Sampson presentation

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons
Administrative Assistant