



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2018

Meeting Location: Paxton Town Hall 697 Pleasant St, Paxton, MA 01612

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

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

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

Hearing for 434 Grove St

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the request to store 6,000 gallons of propane on the property located at 434 Grove St, Paxton, MA. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Bay Path Vocational High School to present FY19 budget

- Mr. John Lefleche gave a quick update about the school. They are closing the Power Equipment shop and will be opening a new shop for Information Support Services and Networking Programs. The school is looking into expanding the parking lot in the front of the building to allow for more parking spaces.
- Dean Iacobucci proceeded to review a line item budget which was handed out. The handout is on file in the Selectmen's Office. Some of the highlights. Health Insurance costs have gone up so we have tried to counter some of that expense with higher copays and deductibles. Paxton's assessment will be going down this year due to fewer students being enrolled. Our building project is now complete and came in under budget.

Lease for 10 West St

- Owners not present. Pass over until our next meeting.

Wachusett Regional School District to present FY19 budget

- The following members of the Wachusett Administration were present: Darryll McCall, Robert Berlo, Joseph Scanlon, Jeffrey Carlson, and Kimberly Merrick. A budget packet was presented and reviewed. The complete packet is on file in the Selectmen's office.
- Darryll McCall expanded upon the issue of enrollment. Enrollment is down. We are finding that more 8th and 9th graders are moving on to schools other than Wachusett

Regional High School. School choice numbers at this time are about the same as to what is coming in and going out. The enrollment for Paxton has been down the last two years.

- Some of our budget priorities involve working to keep the kids on the same levels of learning. We have slated a new ELL teacher for Paxton as well as a new counselor to be shared with Central Tree.
- **(JM)** What do the new positions add to the budget?
- Darryll McCall replied that there are nine new positions which add \$500,000 to the budget.
- **(JM)** We have 166 fewer students but we are adding to the staff?
- A lot of the new positions are for Special Educations. We are losing a lot of students to out of district schools and we have to pay for that.
- Kimberly Merrick stated that 41 students are out of district specifically for social and emotional learning problems.
- Darryll McCall expressed that the Chrombook initiative that was started last year is going well and that they are looking to continue this into next year.
- **(JM)** Would the district ever consider consolidating some of our schools?
- Darryll McCall replied that due to the regional agreement you are not allowed to cross town lines with students.
- **(JM)** Have we looked at getting any additional funding from Devereux in Rutland?
- Darryll McCall replied that they have had conversations with the new Director and they are looking at different options.
- Joe Scanlon reiterated that again a lot of the increase in the budget is due to the minimum local contribution.

Appoint Andrea Thackery

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to appoint Andrea Thackery to the Richards Memorial Library Board of Trustees. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appoint Clarence Burley

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to appoint Clarence Burley to the Paxton Cultural Council. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appoint Christopher McRell

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to appoint Christopher McRell as a full time Dispatcher. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Sign request from the Congregational Church

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the sign request from the Congregational church. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Paxton Firefighters request to run a Boot Drive

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the request from the Paxton Firefighters to have a Boot Drive on April 28, 2018 from 8am to 12pm. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Place open positions on the election ballot for May

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the letter provided by the Town Clerk to authorize the open positions to be place on the May election ballot. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2018. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **FY18 Budget Update**
The Snow & Ice budget currently stands at only \$9,781 for compensation and \$22,300 for materials. There a very good chance that there will once again be a deficit in this account.
- **Richards Memorial Library**
The RML will be closed March 12, 2018 through March 26, 2018 for the installation of a new carpet.
- **Excise Tax**
Excise tax bills have been issued and are due March 7, 2018.
- **Audit**
The auditor is finishing up the FY17 Town Audit and it should be available shortly.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:45pm, Unanimous all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Town Administrators Update

Bay Path FY19 Budget Report

Wachusett Regional School District FY19 Budget Report

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons
Executive Assistant