



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

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.

Discussion on Regional Dispatch

- Attendees: Chief Armstrong from Holden, Tom Kennedy from CTC, Inc., Chief Savasta and Officer Thorpe. The Town of Paxton is considering regionalizing its Dispatch Center with the town of Holden.
- Chief Armstrong open by stating that five years ago they partnered with Princeton for their Dispatch Center and one year later West Boylston came on board. This is a proven model that has been very successful
- Mr. Kennedy from CTC, Inc discussed the process of getting Paxton onboard with the Regionalization of the Dispatch center.

Study Mission: To determine if the regionalization of the emergency communications Paxton to join the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communication Center is a practical, effective and economical endeavor.

Methodology: Interviews, On-site assessments and analyze all aspects of current communications centers operations including technology, training and procedures.

Interview Results Strengths/Potential Benefits: Do not have to deal with Dispatch personnel issues. Do not have to maintain dispatch equipment. Interoperability of radio system. Provide direct communication with Holden. Holden is user friendly.

Interview Results Concerns: Prisoner custody and care/lock up. Loss of Dispatcher at window of police station. Personal loss with community, Retaining Dispatchers

during the transition phase. Dealing with administrative tasks performed by Dispatch personnel such as overtime call and detail requests.

Interview Results Important to Successful Integration: Be open minded. Provide Public information regarding the transition using plain English. Dealing with the change.

Findings: PSAP staffed with only Dispatcher. Outdated equipment. Effective leadership to guide transition. Communities alike in geography and makeup. Holden has the space to accommodate Paxton making it a feasible transition.

Community Recurring Costs: Paxton - \$78,317.05 which reflects 18.17% of the total community share.

Changes within Emergency Communications: New Technology. Next generation 911. FirstNet. Enhanced Operational Standards. Emergency Communications operations.

State 911 Department Role: Committed to more effective and economical 911 system. Reduce the number of stand alone PSAPs. Strong funding stream.

Recommendations: Consolidate the Paxton emergency communications services in the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communication Center. Develop a plan for Paxton to provide the administrative support that the Dispatchers have been providing.

Benefits to the Communities: Improve emergency communications. Provide for a more robust center. Enhance emergency medical dispatching. Greater capability for major incidents. Dedicated 911 funding stream. Recurring cost are supported by State 911 Dept. Capital Equipment and technology costs reimbursed by Stet 911 program. Cost savings.

Next Steps: Approve and sign the Inter municipal agreement. Seek State 911 FY20 development grant funds.

(PB) Where do the 911 funds come from?

Mr. Kennedy replied from your wireless phone bills.

(PB) I just wanted to make sure that it was an ongoing funded source. How many 911 phone calls does Paxton get?

Chief Savasta receive about 700 a year.

(PB) What type of a time frame are we looking at to roll this over?

Mr. Kennedy replied about a year and a half.

(PB) Is there a concern with not having a person in the lobby at the station?

Chief Savasta replied I would still like to have someone in the lobby. We will look into how we are going to staff that.

(PB) This is a potential cost saving but then we still need to staff the lobby.

Chief Savasta replied that it would still be a cost savings.

(JM) Directed Chief Armstrong as to why he wants Paxton

Chief Armstrong replied that it would be cost effective and bring in more resources.

(JM) Dispatch in Paxton seems to be like a revolving door. How does Holden address this?

Chief Armstrong replied that they run classes with AMC and it's a great feeder program. We have people waiting for full time positions to open.

(JP) How would this effect your current staffing levels?

Chief Armstrong replied that add another person if Paxton comes on.

(JP) Did Princeton and West Boylston both get grants?

Mr. Kennedy replied yes, Holden does the grant process.

(JM) We will be using Paxton's towers?

Chief Conte replied We're not sure yet. We need to look at the GPS mapping.

Wachusett Greenways

- Christy Barnes and Colleen Abrams were both present to requests the Towns continued support of the Wachusett Greenways in order to maintain and continue developing the Rail Trail. They are looking for a \$1,000 donation from the Town.
- (PB) Why should Paxton pay for something that does not go through our community?
- Mrs. Barnes replied that at the last Town Meeting several residents expressed to her that they use the Rail Trail.
- (PB) Would it be possible for someone to be available at the Town Meeting to answer any questions that may come up.
- Ms. Abrams replied that yes, someone would be happy to be there.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to support the request for a \$1,000 donation from the Town of Paxton to the Mass Central Rail Trail. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Fire Department to discuss apparatus needs

- Fire Chief Conte and Assistant Fire Chief Pingitore were both present to inform the Board that there are three pieces of equipment that the Fire Department needs replacing. A detailed hand out was provided and reviewed for the Ambulance II, the Tanker and Ladder 1 (the handouts are available in the Selectmen's office). These three trucks have been on the Capital Improvement plan for the Fire Department since 2007.

Sign contract for the Police Lieutenant

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to sign the contract for the Police Lieutenant. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Resignation of Harriet Fradellos

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept with regret the resignation of Harriet Fradellos from the Wachusett Regional School Board. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Review the amendment to the Marijuana Bylaw.

- The Board has no additional comments at this time regarding the amendment of the Marijuana Bylaw.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2019 and the Executive Minutes from January 8, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk is in the process of setting up online dog licensing. This will allow residents to order and pay for dog licenses through the Town's website. Residents who have recently mailed paper requests may see a slight delay in receiving their license and tag.

- **OSHA**

We recently had our first Safety Meeting with departments heads. The Town's MHA risk manager conducted the meeting and provided a brief overview of OSHA. Following the meeting a risk audit was conducted of the DPW and Water Departments by the risk manager and we will receive a report in due course.

Another meeting will take place in February and a safety committee will be formed. Other Town buildings will be audited in February.

(PB) Where is DPW with regards to a new building?

(CR) I talked to Mike about having a committee to do an outreach program and to continue working on this project.

Comments

- **(JM)** I would just like to take this opportunity to thank both the Water Department and the DPW for the work they did to repair a water main break in subzero temperatures.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:57pm, Unanimous all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Town Administrators report

Agenda

Attendance list

Apparatus report from Fire Department

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons
Executive Assistant