



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 19, 2019

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

Members Present: John F. Malone, Vice-Chairman
Julia N. Pingitore, Clerk

Members Not Present: Peter Bogren, Jr., Chairman

Town Administrator: Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

Board Member Julia Pingitore called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Meeting with Wachusett Administrators to review FY2020 budget

- Reviewed the FY20 budget book which is on file in the Board of Selectmen's office and on the Wachusett School Districts website.

1. Enrollment

(JP) Where is the bubble now for Paxton?

Mr. McCall replied that there's not really one right now. We have two classes per grade. K-4 have about 40 students per class and grades 5 – 8 have about 60 students per class.

2. Per Pupil spending

3. FY20 budget

(JM) Why full day free Kindergarten.

Mr. McCall replied that we are one of the only districts that don't have a full day free Kindergarten program. It is a 1.2-million-dollar expense for next year. We are going to use some funds from our revolving accounts which will take care of about half the cost. We will carry over the other half and roll the rest into the budget. This is a one-year one-time cost.

4. Salaries & Benefits

Mr. McCall commented that there will be a zero percent increase in the insurance coverage for next year.

5. Instruction & Operations

(JP) Has the in-district SPED program been successful?

Mr. McCall replied that we have been able to maintain some students in-district that I feel would have probably gone out of district.

6. Fixed Costs

Mr. McCall explained that they have \$250,000 in E&D that will go towards the new turf

field. Estimates for the work have come down since we first enquired about it and we are also looking at the possibility of maybe leasing the field.

7. Fixed Expenditures

(JP) what are the salary increases for?

Mr. McCall replied that they are bringing on an additional HVAC person. Three new Kindergarten teaches for the full day program and three new para professionals.

(JM) As we move forward with technology what happens to the libraries?

Mr. McCall replied that the libraries are turning into more of a media center with the updates in technology.

Rodi Tsamis to discuss pedestrian safety on Route 122

- Ms. Tsamis expressed her concern about the condition of Pleasant St in the center of Town and that it is unsafe for pedestrian to walk there.
- **(JP)** Pleasant St is a state road so we are limited in what we can do.
- **(CR)** A project section review can be requested through Mass DOT.
- Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent, remarked that the state is in charge of the road and it is frustrating to see it deteriorate and I would like to see the Town ask to have the state do something.
- **(JM)** It may also be beneficial to express your concern to our state reps.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the writing of a formal letter to the State in regards to the condition of Pleasant Street. Unanimous, all in favor.**

The bell at the Congregational Church

- **(CR)** Peter expressed that we should pass over this because we still have not determined ownership of the bell.

Open warrant for the Annual Town Meeting

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the opening of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 6th. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor. Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Tiana Recos to discuss signage for crossing near the Congregational Church

- Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent, expressed that there is a light right at the corner of Maple St and Richards Ave but there is not one at the crosswalk over the gravel parking lot. I would consult an engineer to walk the site and have them put together some thoughts and ideas on what could be done to bring that area up to compliance and make it a proper crosswalk. I have ordered some new signs to replace the current ones.
- Mrs. Recos expressed that when dropping off her kids at the day care at the church she tries to park along the side of the road but when she can't, and she needs to park in the lot it is very dark walking over and there is a lack of an area to cross the common because there is no paved walkway.
- **(CR)** The Building Inspector did express this very concern to the day care, but they felt that it would be okay.
- Mike Putnam expressed that he would talk to the Paxton Light Department about adding

a light. I do also have a concern with the Church goers parking on the side of the road because this blocks the view of the walkers and people driving by. This should be brought up to the Church.

- **(CR)** We need to check on the pick up and drop off policy for the day care.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:30pm, Unanimous all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

FY2020 Budget report from Wachusett School Dist.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons

Executive Assistant