



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 5, 2019

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

Town Administrator: Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

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

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

Parking issue at the Senior Center

- Curtis Hammer and Cindy Love spoke on behalf of the Board for the Council On Aging. The lack of parking at the Senior Center is becoming more and more of an issue as attendance and use of the Senior Center increases. The recommendation was made that the wooden fence be removed, and the metal fence be pushed over closer to the school's blacktop area so that more parking spaces could be added (diagram was provided).
- **(JP)** We just need to make sure that we leave enough of a buffer from the school area and see if we need to put up any type of a barrier between the parking for the Senior Center and the school area.
- Cindy Love did express that everyone's safety is their main concern.
- Curtis Hammer added that if this area is adjusted that it would also need to be smoothed out so that the senior citizens can navigate it safely.
- **(PB)** Carol will look into this with our DPW Superintendent to see what if any adjustments could be made to the area and what the cost would be.

Signing of the DPW agreement

- Pass over this item until the next meeting.

Signing of the Water Tank agreement

- Board members all signed off on the agreement for the Water Tank.

Request from the Congregational Church to use the Town Common

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the request from the Congregational Church to use the Town Common on August 18th. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appoint Election Officers

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to appoint the Election Officers as requested by the Town Clerk for the period starting August 15, 2019 through August 15, 2020. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Janice Carlson
Nancy Delle
Gino Gangai
Paula Gangai
Melinda Johnson
Jackie Laflash
Deirdre Malone
Jane McTigue
Maryann Paquette
Jonathan Parsons
Marlo Richards
Emma Ryan – Clerk
Tiffany Sidhom – Warden
Nancy Wilby

Discuss the Animal Control Officers position

- Pete Warren was available to discuss the position for the Animal Control Officer.
- **(PB)** Addressed Mr. Warren by stating that he was told that it is difficult sometimes to get a hold of you and the police have had to handle dog issues in the past.
- Mr. Warren replied that he had been without a vehicle for some time and that the police have never handled calls unless he didn't have a car, or it was late at night. If the police did pick up a dog it was never brought to my attention.
- **(JP)** I have also been told that on occasion Dispatch has difficulty reaching you. I have had two different individuals tell me that people other than yourself have handled dog calls. I received a complaint some years ago when I first started on the Board and one more recently regarding a call on Mount View about coyotes and supposedly you direct them to go get the coyotes themselves with a bat and destroy them in their den.
- Mr. Warren replied that he never spoke to that resident. I don't do wildlife calls. I told Dispatch to put them in contact with Mass Wildlife.
- **(JM)** I have also heard the same from residents that it is hard to get a hold of you and get a response.
- **(PB)** How many complaints did we have last year?
- Mr. Warren replied you would have to get that information from Dispatch.
- **(PB)** What records do you keep?
- Mr. Warren replied that he keeps records of the calls that he goes on but in many instances the calls are just informational, so I don't keep a record of that.
- **(PB)** The Town job description says you need to keep records.

- Mr. Warren said I do bring the records I have into the Town Clerk. Also, a lot has changed recently since everything is now under the Department of Agriculture and I haven't gone through all the changes that were provided in the last class that I took. I don't always hear my calls due to my hearing and the loud equipment that I work around so it may be 5 minutes to an hour before I return the call.
- **(JM)** When you are provided a list of people that have not licensed their dogs are you still going to them and fining them?
- Mr. Warren replied that he has sent fines, but he has never taken anyone to court. It would help if I had a smart phone to be able to look up information. I've been before the Board once in twenty-five years for a complaint.
- **(PB)** Who is currently handling the dog calls
- **(CR)** The Police Department at the moment and I have handled a couple of calls myself as well. The work has been backing up with ACO.
- **(PB)** Since we did not reappoint Mr. Warren, I am seeing this as a new appointment so I think that we should repost the position. I also want to follow up on some items that we have discussed.
- **(JP)** Yes, I agree to repost it and I need to follow up on some items as well.
- **(JM)** I agree as well.
- **(PB)** We are going to follow up on a few things. If you would like to be reappointed as the ACO please forward a letter of interest and we will take it up again at our next meeting on August 19th.

Town Administrators Goals and Objectives

- **(PB)** Carol's evaluation should have been done much earlier so at this point I would like to move the time at which we do the evaluation and goals to be more in line with the fiscal year so the evaluation can be done prior to the budget season.
- **(JP)** Yes, we have mentioned doing this in the past and it would be better timing wise.
- **(PB)** Then on her current goals the due dates should be updated to read June 30th and I would also like to add that an update of town activity be emailed weekly.
- **(JM)** I think that every week is a bit much. Every other week would be sufficient. I don't want to overload her going forward.

Meeting Minutes

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

Town Administrators Update

- **Wage & Compensation Study**
Work has started on the Wage & Compensation Study. Surveys have been completed and the Collins Group have interviews employees.
- **CIPC Plan**
Work has started and all employees have met with the representatives from Collins Group.

- **MVP**

There is a meeting for the Core Members on August 13th at 10am. Would the Board like to have representation as an MVP Core member?

- **MassWorks Grant**

The MassWorks Grant has opened and I intend to submit a grant to fund the repaving of RT31 between the end of Suomi to the Spencer line. May I have a vote of the Board to submit this grant.

- **Recreation Concerts**

There is still time to catch a concert at the Bandstand on Center Fields. This Thursday Petty Larceny, a Tom Petty cover band will be playing at 6:30pm to 8:30pm. These concerts are free and a great way to spend a family evening. Plenty of room for kids to run around.

- **WRSD Turf Field**

The WRSD new turf field should be installed by the end of this week.

- **Senior Picnic**

The annual picnic was very well attended this year; 75 seniors enjoyed lunch courtesy of the Police Department. Big shout out to Cindy Love, Director, assistant Dolores Rauschl, COA Board members and the Police Department.

(JM) The annual summer employee luncheon was held today and was very successful.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to leave the regular meeting and entered into Executive Session at 8:13pm and we will return to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning. Unanimous, all in favor.

Returned to Regular Session at 8:40pm

Adjourned Meeting at 8:40pm, Unanimous all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Town Administrators Update

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons
Executive Assistant