



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
(508) 754-7638 – phone (508) 797-0966 – fax
dparsons@townofpaxton.net

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 19, 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.

Recreation Drive and parking at Senior Center

- Jeff Cormier, Recreation Chairman, was present to discuss the access road behind Paxton Center School. We would like to name the access road Recreation Drive and number the snack shack. This will allow people to navigate through Google maps.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve naming the access road that leads to Tivnan Field as Recreation Drive. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (CR) I met with Recreation and Mike Putnam about the parking area behind the school and Senior Center. Mike is going to work with Recreation and look into the pricing for the work to be done and then we can take it over to the school to discuss.
- Jeff commented that there is a lot of work to do. We would probably need to cut into the hill and fix some drainage issues. If we're going to do it then we should do it right. We also need to maintain the emergency access road that's there as well.

Discuss ACO position with applicant Laurie Drazek

- Laurie Drazek was present to discuss the Animal Control Officers position. Ms. Drazek is a professor at Anna Maria College and has been involved in animal rescue for twenty years. Ms. Drazek expressed that when she applied for the position it was her understanding that the current ACO was retiring. She has since learned that this is not the situation.
- (JM) stated that the job description states that you need to carry a gun. Do you have a gun?

- Ms. Drazek replied that she did, but she only acquired a gun permit so that she could transport her father's guns.
- **(JM)** Do you have any physical issues that would impact your ability to do this job?
- Ms. Drazek replied she did not have any physical issues.
- **(CR)** This is an on-call position. What is your availability?
- Ms. Drazek replied that she works part time at Anna Maria but is available most times.

Discuss ACO position with applicant Peter Warren

- **(PB)** Clarified a statement in Mr. Warren's application letter referring to the fact that his position as ACO was not reappointed and then was not discussed when it was supposed to be at a later meeting.
- **(JM)** Again, stated that the position requires that a gun needs to be carried and asked Mr. Warren if he had one.
- Mr. Warren stated that he did.
- **(JP)** We were provided a copy of the Dispatch log from January 1, 2018 to present. I reviewed the first 55 calls and out of these 55 calls, 20 of them had messages left and had no documented response or you were unable to be reached. 5 of these calls were responded to later in the day. 17 of them were responded to and acted upon and 3 had issues that I question your response to how they were handled.
- **(PB)** Do you only respond to dog calls? My concern is how we interact with the public. If in fact, we do not handle cats we need to respond with a proper reaction and explain options instead of stating "We don't do cats".
- Mr. Warren replied that we used to do cats. We were charge \$75.00 to take cats to the Animal Rescue and I was told by Town Hall to no longer pick up cats because it costs too much. I'm not working anymore so I have more time and can talk to people to further explain things to them.
- **(PB)** I would suggest that we have a printed informational sheet that can be handed out to the residents that explains our policies.
- Mr. Warren expressed that he would like a new phone that would allow him to access City Hall Systems.
- **(PB)** Carol will follow up with Mr. Warren after the meeting.
- **(CR)** I would like to discuss the possibility of splitting the position between Peter and Laurie.
- **Motion (JM) to appoint both individuals to the Animal Control Officers position. seconded (JP) for discussion.**
- **(JP)** I think this is a great idea. It would allow Laurie to get up to speed while we tighten up policies and procedures.
- **(CR)** I did put a log in place which will give us more checks and balances.
- **(PB)** It would be tough to ask Pete to take a cut. I would like to reappoint him and put some policies in place. We could ask Laurie if she would be willing to fill in and get her certification. We can look at increasing the pay next year. I think Pete is right and we don't have policies and procedures in place, and we haven't brought the ACO position up to speed.
- **(JP)** How would you propose a split in pay?
- **(PB)** I don't have an answer for that. We would have to take a look at it. Maybe a per diem as calls are filled in.
- **(JP)** We would need to work out how a sharing of the position would be handled. Perhaps if the ACO is called and does not respond within a certain amount of time a back

up could be called. I am opposed to continuing with only one person. We should talk to Laurie about being a backup or sharing.

- (CR) I don't want to see the current situation continue with no one in the position because it has been a drain on other departments.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to reappoint Peter Warren as the Animal Control Officer until June 30, 2020. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to contact Laurie Drazek to work as a back up to the Animal Control Officer. Unanimous, all in favor.**

10 West Market request's that a Purple Heart parking spot be put in.

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to allow the owner of 10 West Market to designate a spot for Purple Heart parking. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (PB) I would like to see the same thing done for one of the parking spots at the Town Hall. Other communities have done so and I would like to follow suit.
- (JP) Initially I was concerned with the number of spots that we have but its not very often that the lot is full. I would like to see it done as well.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to designate one spot at the Town Hall for Purple Heart parking. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Donation of land on Grove Street

- **Motion (JP) seconded (JM) to accept the donation of 11.86 acres of land on Grove Street. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (JM) Why is the owner giving it up?
- (CR) They have not been able to sell it and the Town has an easement on it to the Reservoir.
- (JP) We are in need of open space for recreation. What are we losing in taxes?
- (CR) It's not a great deal.

Signing of the DPW agreement

- The Select Board signed the agreement for the DPW building.

COA sign request

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the request to put up a sign on the Town Common for the COA Health Fair. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (JP) The Health Fair is on September 25th from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Senior Center. It is open to anyone that wants to come.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **MVP Program**
The meeting of the Core Members took place last week and it was very interesting. We discussed the impacts of the changing temperature:

Economic – snow & ice – loss work time – costly to treat

Agricultural – excessively wet spring – drought – shorter growing time

Health – dangerous road conditions – floods – emergency response delays – heat dangerous to young & seniors – increase in insects

Infrastructure – roads & culverts impacted – sewer & septic issues from high water table

Environment – change in habitat for creatures

The Workshop with more participants will take place at AMC on September 18 from 9am to 3pm.

- **Recreation Concerts**

This Thursday at 6pm will be the last concert of the series at the Bandstand at Center Fields. Paxton Crossing will be performing.

- **Movie Night**

Save the date. Recreation will once again have a movie night on September 6th. Activities start at 6pm and the film will start at 7:45pm. Film TBD.

Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to leave the regular meeting and entered into Executive Session at 8:07pm and we will return to the regular meeting for the purpose of adjourning. Unanimous, all in favor.

Returned to Regular Session at 8:20pm

Adjourned Meeting at 8:20pm, Unanimous all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 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