



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, September 30, 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.

Safety on the Town Common

- Michael Putnam, DPW Superintendent and John Morgan, from CHA, were present to discuss the pedestrian and driver safety around the Town Common.
- Mike Putnam addressed the fact that there is a growing concern for pedestrian safety in crossing the common now that the day care at the church is open.
- John Morgan reviewed a diagram of the Town Common and discussed some of the things that could be done to increase the safety of that area. Some of the immediate problems in this area are narrow sidewalks, no wheelchair access, lack of signage for designated crosswalks. Improvements that should be made are upgrades to the sidewalks, cement landing for wheelchairs with warning signals, improve signage, construct a landing through the common from the parking lot to the church, rapid flashing beacon at crosswalk. Estimated cost for this work would be \$69,000.
- Mike Putnam indicated that at the same time they would also like to repave Richards Ave along the common and the cost to that would be about \$73,000.
- **(PB)** stated that this would be a 2021 project so what do we do about this upcoming winter?
- Mike Putnam suggested that they would put the cross walk in at the end of the common and raise the curbing along the side of the church.
- **(PB)** Do you have the funds to do this work?
- Mike Putnam replied that yes, this is a minimal expense. Another issue though is keeping the sidewalks clear in the winter. We put a sidewalk cleaner on our Capital request, but that piece of equipment goes for about \$150,000. We are going to hire a new employee and one of their duties will be to clear snow from the Town properties.
- **(PB)** What happens if you have a shortfall in your Chapter 90 funds.
- Mike Putnam replied that it would take away from repaving other roads.

- (JM) Is there a way that we could keep people from parking along the common?
- Mike Putnam stated that they will put in higher curbing along that area. At this time can I get your approval to do the crosswalk.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the crosswalk at the end of the common be put into place. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Mike Putnam stated that when the time comes, they will talk to the churches about the placement of the other crosswalks and make sure that cars are not allowed to park in the way of the crosswalk access points.
- (JM) Maybe we can ask the school if they could help with the purchase of the sidewalk cleaner since it's for their students.

COA parking lot

- Mike Putnam looked into what could be done to try and expand the parking on the lower level at the Senior Center. I spoke to the principal and the school needs to maintain the area that they already have so we would need to expand in the other direction. I also spoke to the Fire Chief and he is okay with reconfiguring the area as long as he still has access to area behind it. The Recreation Commission is also on board with the change in this area. The work would entail moving the driveway over to flatten out the decline. Remove the guardrail and chain-link fence. Make more of a rectangular area for parking then put up a new gate and fence to divide school grounds from the parking lot. Estimate for this would be about \$50,000. At the same time, I would like to bring in the school lot and do it as a whole project. The estimate on the school lot would be about \$180,000. We can't use Chapter money on this project.
- (CR) We would have to put forward an article to do this. The Stabilization money could be used but then Mike would lose that for road repairs.
- Mike Putnam stated that this project would add about 20 parking spaces on the lower level by the Senior Center.
- (JP) Could we have access to the school area on the weekends?
- Mike Putnam replied that you would just have to have someone open the gate.
- (PB) Do we need a Special Town meeting for this?
- (CR) I think it would be best to wait until the Annual Town Meeting.
- (JP) This area will be used by more than just the seniors. If we have more time to get the word out, then you might get more residents behind this.
- (PB) Let's put this as an article on the Annual Town Meeting.

Closure of Brigham Road

- Mike Putnam stated that Brigham Rd was never closed off. Initial discussion did not incorporate the other departments. Chief Savasta would prefer to not close it. The police use this road as a shortcut to get through town.
- (PB) The Select Board did vote to close the road. Any suggestions on how to slow things down?
- (MP) They currently have radar going on up there.
- (PB) Do you feel we should reverse our decision?
- (JM) I think we need more input from the other departments in order to make a more informed decision.
- (PB) For our October 21st meeting ask the Fire and Police Chiefs to attend as well as any residents that would be interested in giving their input.

- (MP) We were looking at putting a gate at either end if we close it off and the gates cost \$3,500 each so we also need to consider that cost.

Accept the resignation of Richard McGinn from the Insurance Advisory Committee

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to accept the resignation with regret of Richard McGinn from the Insurance Advisory Committee. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appoint James Carleton to the Insurance Advisory Committee

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to appoint James Carleton to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Trash abatement for 25 Red Oak St

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the abatement for trash collection for 25 Red Oak. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Appoint Sheila Latino as an Election Officer

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to appoint Sheila Latino as an Election Officer. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (JP) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2019. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

FY20 Budget

As we near the end of the first quarter of FY20 I see no problems with our appropriation accounts. I do foresee the Fire Department having a problem with their budget as their aging fleet is causing maintenance concerns.

Additional software may also need purchasing in the MIS budget, this will be above the expenditure budgeted.

Fire & Police Open House

The Fire & Police Open House will take place Sunday, October 6th between 10am and 1pm at the Public Safety Complex. This is always a fun event and a chance to see the Town's safety equipment.

Holden Road Update

The project has completed base course and binder. The sidewalks and driveway aprons will be completed before winter.

The project completion date is August 4, 2020, but the project manager expects this date to be sooner.

John Bauer Senior Center

Work on replacing the boiler will start on September 30, 2019. This is a three-day job and will include adding additional heat to the foyer.

Wage & Compensation Study

As an update job description have been finalized and the Collins Group will work on the town comparisons in the next coming weeks.

MVP Grant

The Climate Resilience Change Workshop went very well. Attendees provided great input that will generate a report for Paxton and make us an MVP Community.

We will have a required listening session as part of the Board's meeting on October 7, 2019.

Town Hall

Closing the month of September has created no issues and allowed for flexibility of staff. Unless you have received negative comments, I would like to suggest that we continue this practice with the exception that the building be open on any Friday where real estate taxes fall due. This of course will be up for review at any time that the Board suggests.

Code Red – Water Tank

Work is being done on the Asnebumskit water tank so please conserve water and all outside water is banned during this time. The repairs will take about 6 to 8 weeks.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:19pm, Unanimous all in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7, 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