

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2009

Members Present: Frederick Goodrich, Chair, Michael T. Quinlivan, Vice Chair
John F. Malone, Clerk
Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

- (JM) asked for a minute of silence in respect of the passing of Dennis Rindone, Princeton Town Administrator.
- (FG) spoke of the good work that Mr. Rindone did for both the Town of Princeton and his hometown of Irving.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2009. Unanimous All in Favor.**

Cemetery Commission

- **Motion to appoint Patricia Belsito to the Cemetery Commission until the next Town Election in May 2009. Unanimous all in Favor.**

Town Clerk Request to Change the Voting Hours at the Annual Town Election

- Deirdre Malone, Town Clerk would like to reduce the voting hours from 10am to 8pm to noon to 8pm. Town Clerk stated that it would save money and she did not feel that it would have any effect on the voters.
- (MQ) had a problem with the reduced hours, as he felt that it was restricting the voter's ability to vote. He would like to consider a bylaw change.
- **Motion (FG) to accept the new voting hours for this year. (MQ) No. (JM) recused himself. Motion failed.**

Paxton Safety Complex Update – Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

- Windows installed
- No major changes

Town Citizens Caucus

- (FG) announced that the Town's Citizens Caucus will take place on March 17, 2009 chaired by Alice Livdahl.

Meeting with Dr. Pandiscio

- (FG) will meet with Dr. Pandiscio and Finance Committee on March 10, 2009 to discuss FY10 Budget.

Town Administrators Update – Charles Blanchard

FY08 Audit

- The FY08 audit is nearly complete Preliminary information has been furnished to First Southwest for the anticipated long term borrowing in March.

Water Van

- The Water Dept. has received the new water van and the old van can be sold as surplus equipment.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to declare the old water van as surplus equipment. Unanimous all in favor.**

Underground Storage Tanks

- We received a message from the Dept. of Fire Services that Massachusetts has adopted a third party inspection program for all underground storage tanks. They are in the process of developing a statewide contract.

Ice Storm

- (CB) (FG) and Deirdre Malone met with the Emergency Board on February 26th and approval was given to borrow up to \$1.5 million to pay the costs on the December 2008 ice storm. This will require Town Meeting approval and debt exclusion vote. The borrowing for the cost of the storm must be done by June 30, 2009.

PILOT

- In reviewing Holden's FY10 Budget (CB) noticed that their Light Dept makes an annual payment in lieu of taxes of \$127,500 to the Town. This is also the case for Sterling but Princeton does not.
- (CB) recommending that the BOS initiate discussion with the Paxton Municipal Light Commission to negotiate an annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to the Town of Paxton.
- (JM) stated that the Light Dept. does a lot for the Town and that the cost of PILOT would be passed along to the residents. Would like to see a PILOT from AMC.
- Mike Benoit, Commissioner asked whether a statement had been released as he was surprised when he saw it in the paper on Saturday.

- (CB) responded that he releases his Town Administrator's update to the press on either Friday before the meeting or the day of the meeting, on this occasion the press released the information early, this isn't usually the case.
- Diane Dillman, Light Dept Manager stated they provide lower billing to the Town, If they had to pay PILOT they would have to pass along to the residents.
- (FG) stated that they could not compare Paxton to Holden and that the Paxton Light Dept. does a lot for the Town.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) not to continue the discussion with the Light Dept. regarding PILOT. Unanimous all in favor.**

DPW Salt & Sand Account

- Due to the numerous storms the DPW Salt & Sand account is nearly depleted and additional materials have to be ordered. Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent has requested the BOS approval for deficit spending of \$15,000.00.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to deficit spend in the amount \$15,000.00. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **(FG) announced that the BOS would go into Executive Session following the Regular Meeting to discuss Collective Bargaining and would only return to Regular Session for the purpose of adjourning.**

Other Business

Town Meeting

- (JM) asked where they stood regarding moving the Annual Town Meeting to a Saturday.
- **After a brief discussion Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to convene Town Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2009 and reconvene to the following Saturday at 10am. (MQ) voted NO.**
- (FG) stated that the Moderator has requested that all votes be taken by ballot.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:05pm and go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 39, S.23B to discuss Collective Bargaining. Unanimous all in favor.**

Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to adjourn Regular Meeting at 8:35pm. Unanimous all in favor

Respectfully submitted

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant