

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2009

Members Present: Fred Goodrich, Chair, Michael Quinlivan, Vice Chair
John F. Malone, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee Sheet

Chairman (FG) opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

- **Motion (MQ) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2009. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (MQ) seconded (JM) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2009. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2009, with four amendments. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2009. Unanimous all in favor.**

Public Safety Complex Update – Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

- Complex continues on schedule, working on interior
- Sheet rocking will start by the end of the week.
- Presentation took place today to announce the \$300,000 Omnibus stimulus grant for communications and technical assistance.
- Will meet with Mark Kady March 20, 2009 to discuss radios.
- (JM) kudos to (CB) and the committee.

Trash Fee Abatement Request 64 Streeter Road

- BOS reviewed information received for abatement request.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to discontinue Trash Fee from this day forward, not backdated.**

Special Town Meeting Date

- Discussed the need for an article to approve the 1.5 million borrowing for the ice storm.

- (JM) asked when the BOS took a vote to pick up the debris following the ice storm. (FG) stated that a statement was issued in December following a visit from Fema and Mema.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to open the Special Town Warrant for April 13, 2009. Unanimous all in favor.**
- (FG) suggested that the debt exclusion for the Ambulance should be part of the warrant.

Town Administrators Update

Bond Rating

- Town retained its A2 rating for the \$6.655 million General Obligation Bonds that are being offered on March 18th. (CB) thanked the Treasurer for her participation in the conference call that allowed them to answer questions from Moody's.
- (JM) mentioned that the Treasurer had informed him that without (CB) participation they would not have got this rating.

Budget

- Finance Committee met last week to continue to try to balance the budget.
- Chief Desrosiers has asked his officers to identify streetlights that should be left on as a priority for safety.
- Unemployment benefits for qualifying laid off employees are 50% of an employee's average weekly wage up to a maximum of \$628 per week for 30 weeks. If the employee has dependent children the benefit is increased by \$25 per week per child up to a maximum of half of the weekly benefit.

Building Permit Guide

- Trish Settles of CMRPC has made all of the suggested corrections and revisions to the new guidebook. It is intended to have copies available for contractors who work frequently in Town.

ABCC

- ABCC are once again asking for the seasonal population for the Town.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to state population as 4915 with no seasonal increase. Unanimous all in favor.**

Common Cause – E-Government

- Once again the Town is to receive the award from Common Cause for having all the criteria displayed on the website. Awards will be given out in Boston on Thursday at 1pm.

FY10 Budget

- Discussed the Town Clerk position, Finance Committee has approved a budget that includes the Town Clerks salary as \$28,000.

- (FG) believes that State Aid will be reduced.
- (JM) stated that he would like to write a letter to Dr. Pandiscio requesting that the \$1million reduction, due to the expected additional revenue from the Stimulus Package be taken off the Assessment rather than to reduce the WRSD expenses. If amount not taken off the Assessment they would see next years WRSD budget starting at \$7.5million budget..
- (FG) stated that at the Regional meeting the previous week he was under the impression that they had requested a letter be written to Dr. Pandiscio by (CB) requesting a level budget, the letter sent did not talk about level funding.
- (CB) responded that at the meeting Ken O'Brien asked that the letter did not request level funding, as Holden had not voted that way. Asked that the letter convey appreciation of efforts in working towards the lowest possible assessment. But had a concern over the use of the proposed one time revenue source. In years to come without this source, they would see an increase in the assessments in the years to come. Letter was drafted in this wording.
- Motion (JM) seconded (FG) for discussion to send letter to Dr. Pandiscio and WRSDC regarding level funding.
- (FG) had a concern with publishing a statement different to other Towns, and the vote that was taken at the Regional Meeting.
- (JM) stated that the Town was not budgeting raises for employees but the teachers would be receiving raises.
- (JM) stated that he would write the letter from himself.
- (FG) did not want to see one member write this.
- (CB) stated that even with a level funded school budget it would not solve the Town's problems, but at state level, will require significant cuts to get down to a balanced budget.
- (JM) withdrew his motion.

Public Session

- Chris de Marcken agreed with (FG) comments regarding the letter wording.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm (JM) second (MQ) – All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant