

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 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 8:20 pm.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2009. Unanimous all in favor.**

Borrowing

- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to sign the papers for Borrowing on General Obligation Bonds for \$6.665 Million. Unanimous all in favor.**

December Ice Storm Clean Up

- (JM) asked what amount of \$1.5million was attributed to the clean that has yet to be done
- (JM) was informed approximately \$800,000 as the Town has spent \$700,000 to date.
- (JM) expressed his opinion that he felt that it was financially irresponsible to pick up the debris that is being left at the side of the road. The question relating to picking up the debris was passed by, when it was brought up for discussion at the emergency meetings during the ice storm, he stated that a stance should have been taken at that time.
- (FG) stated that he understood the cost but people have made an effort to get the debris to the roadside. If the Town votes not to approve the borrowing then the Town will have spoken.
- (MQ) understands that no vote was taken during the emergency, personally didn't want to see people getting into harms way trying to clean up the debris. Now we can't leave the danger there and need to offer the service.
- (FG) pick up as committed.
- Motion (FG) plan to pick up debris at the side of the road. (MQ) seconded the motion on Article 1.

- (CB) clarified that the motion proposed by (FG) was not on Article 1. but on the pick up of the debris.
- Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to pick up the debris from the December Ice Storm. (JM) NO. 2-1 Motion passed.

Special Town Meeting April 13, 2009

- Article 1. Authorization to Borrow \$1.5 million for expenses associated with the December Ice Storm.
- Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to accept article and recommend approval. (JM) NO. 2-1 Motion approved.
- Article 2. To Appropriate \$20,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund to continue the engineering study to determine the feasibility of developing a Town owned water supply at Asnebumskit Reservoir.
- Motion (MQ) seconded (FG) to accept article and recommend approval (JM) abstained. 2-1 Motion passed.
- Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to close the Special Town Warrant for April 13, 2009. Unanimous all in favor.
- (MQ) asked whether this would be a good time to include a bylaw change to have the Town Meeting another day other than the first Monday in May.
- Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to reopen warrant
- (CB) a bylaw change would involve a public hearing and there isn't sufficient time to do this.
- Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to close warrant. Unanimous all in favor.

Town Administrators Update

RFQ

- Draft of the RFQ for the remainder of the Ice Storm clean up work provided to the BOS.
- (CB) stated that the DPW Superintendent and Core of Engineers have done a review of the debris on hand. Other communities are finding more debris that estimated.

Debt Exclusion

- Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) for discussion to put ballot question on the May 11, 2009 ballot as follows:

- (MQ) asked how this is assessed.
- (CB) answered that it is an annual payment and it goes on the tax rate appropriated over limit 2½ for duration of debt. When debt cleared, it is then taken off.
- (JM) stated that five years ago BOS voted not go above 12½% for debt.
- (MQ) stated that the 12½% does not include debt exclusions.
- (CB) provided the BOS with an up to date list of debt service.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to put ballot question on the May 11, 2009 ballot. (JM) NO 2-1 Motion passed.**

WORDING:

“Shall the Town of Paxton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay for the cost of the emergency response and clean-up for the ice storm of December, 2008?”

Other Business

- Letter from Cemetery Commission stating that Carol Riches had agree to continue to act as Cemetery agent within the Town Hall.
- Letter of resignation from Louis Proulx from the Cable Committee.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to accept Louis Proulx resignation. Unanimous all in favor.**

Public Session

- Richard Hafey asked whether the Town would still commit to pay for the clean up if FEMA did not come through with funding. (FG) responded that it would.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm (JM) second (FG) – All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant