

**Town of Paxton  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 21, 2009**

Members Present: Fred 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 7:05pm and stated that they would be discussing budget and schedules and how information is conveyed to the public.

**Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion (MQ) seconded (FG) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2009. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to accept the Executive Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2009. Unanimous, all in favor.**

**Public Safety Complex Update – Charlie Blanchard**

- On schedule.
- Antenna Bids due in by April 29, 2009.
- Radio & furnishing – recommendations will be made at the May 4<sup>th</sup> PSC Committee meeting.

**Emergency Manager**

- (FG) Jeff Wentzell, Emergency Manager has informed him that he will be moving to Rhode Island in the next month or two, but would like to continue as Emergency Manager.
- BOS discussed and agreed that Jeff Wentzell should continue at this time and after the Election take up with the new BOS member.

**FEMA Update**

- (CB) Project Officer visited last week, at which time (CB) informed him that he had received confirmation from Lorraine Eddy that it was okay to extend the emergency period to December 22, 2008 as they had claimed in the PW.
- (FG) stated that he had heard today that FEMA would not be willing to reimburse unless Towns had committed to pay the remaining 25%.

- (CB) stated that they were aware of that, all invoices had been paid by the Town relating to the December 2008 Ice Storm.

#### **Robert Stewart – Resident**

- Mr. Stewart attended the meeting to discuss the cost of the debris clean up. He was currently having his own yard cleaned up from the storm and felt that the costs quoted for the Town clean up was a lot more.
- (CB) provided Mr. Stewart with information on the amounts that FEMA would reimburse. Mr. Stewart stated that he would wait until all his work was complete to provide further figures.

#### **Storm Debris Clean Up**

- (FG) stated that he does not believe that neighborhoods will clean up what debris is currently out on the streets and that it could become a safety hazard. He would like to consider penalties imposed for any debris that is in the street.
- DEP have confirmed that they will not extend the open burning season beyond May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- (MQ) stated that he did not believe that people realize that they are going to forfeit the 75% from FEMA if we don't clean up the debris.
- (FG) stated he did not think that people at the Town Meeting understood the implications of the vote and that they needed to try once again for at a Special Town Meeting for the borrowing.
- **Motion (MQ) seconded (FG) to put separate articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant for the borrowing associated with the ice storm and debris collection. Motion passed 2-1.**

#### **Budget Informational Meeting – April 27, 2009**

- (FG) this meeting should be cancelled and rescheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> before Town Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>, depending on what they decide tonight.
- (CB) as of June 30, 2009 anything not borrowed long-term will go against the tax rate.
- Next year have to pay the cost of storm \$706,000 reducing next year's budget. If don't exclude half will go against FY10 and half against FY11, plus interest. Debt Exclusion is the only alternative.
- Rutland, Princeton and Holden have all passed the vote.
- **Motion (FG) seconded to cancel April 27, 2009 informational meeting. (JM) NO 2-1 motion passed.**

#### **Annual Town Meeting**

- (FG) cannot balance budget by that date.

- Richard Fenton, Finance Committee Chair, stated that we currently have a \$109,000 deficit and using the Cherry Sheet figures this amounts to \$192,000. Cannot believe that the Town will not vote for Debt Exclusion. Use the May 12<sup>th</sup> Informational meeting to bring up the concerns of fire hazard and the tax relief received from increasing property taxes.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to reduce the budget number of the Wachusett Regional School District.**
- (FG) can put in a number but not binding unless another Town does it.
- (FG) stated that he seconded the motion to let WRSD know our feeling and to let people see there is a budget and why we don't have money in the Stabilization Fund.
- (CB) responded that if the budget is Article one and this article shows up later on the warrant, it will do nothing.

### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

- (FG) stated he would like to add two articles to accept C44 S55B and to consider a bylaw change to change the date of the Town Meeting in future years to June after the state budget.
- (CB) stated that the intent of changing the Town Meeting to May 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> was to extend the time to see if we can act on the Storm debt. Can deal with the non-financial items on May 4<sup>th</sup> and act on the financial items at the later meeting. Hold a Special Town Meeting to act on Ice storm at the same time as the Annual Town Meeting and get a broader range of people to attend.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the nine articles as written and make recommendations at Town Meeting. Unanimous all in Favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Unanimous all in Favor.**

### **Town Administrators Update- Charlie Blanchard**

#### **Town Meeting Date**

- Suggested changing the Town Meeting date and the Informational meeting that was planned for April 27, 2009 as previously discussed.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to have a continuation of the Annual Town Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Unanimous all in Favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to have the Informational Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Unanimous all in Favor.**

#### **Debris Clean Up Bid**

- Due to the failure to gain approval for the borrowing needed for the December ice storm we have issued an addendum to extend the date to accept these bids to April 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Proposals**

Other proposals or bids due:

- DPW Heavy Duty 10 Wheel Truck – April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Debris Monitoring RFP – April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- PSC Radio Antenna Tower – April 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Unanimous all in Favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Unanimous all in Favor.**

## **Correspondence**

- Request by Troop 105 to advertise the Memorial Day Breakfast on the Common.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to allow. Unanimous all in Favor.**
- Request by Mr. Wentworth, 521 Pleasant Street to have trash fee abated, property vacant.
- (JM) asked that a copy of the dumpster contract be requested.
- Request by Mr. Soffan, 7 Hemlock Street to opt out of the trash, as he has a private contractor, and provided a copy of the contract.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to allow opt out. Unanimous all in Favor.**
- **Paul Gallo requesting permission to hold Farmers Market on the Common May to October 3pm to 7pm.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to give permission. Unanimous all in Favor.**
- Letter from Lottery Commission stating proposal to provide the Paxton Marketplace with a monitor for Keno to Go unless objection received from the Board of Selectmen.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) no objection to a monitor being received from the Lottery Commission by the Paxton Marketplace. Unanimous all in Favor.**

## **Public Session**

- George Barket stated that the BOS needed to get the information out to residents of the dated of the Town Meeting. He expressed his concern with the sight of the Town due to brush and tree debris lining the streets.
- Richard Hafey asked which articles would be acted on at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Town meeting and was informed: Articles 3,4,8 & 9.

**Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to adjourn meeting at 9:40pm. Unanimous. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant