

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2009

Members Present: Frederick G. Goodrich, Chair
Michael T. Quinlivan, Member
William A. Trotta, Clerk

Attendees: See attendee list

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

Wachusett Regional School District Chapter 71 Cuts

- WRSD received a cut in transportation C71 of \$1,087,576 for FY10. New assessment to Paxton is \$4,919,839.
- FY10 budget included a higher figure for Minimum Local Contribution than WRSD had included in their assessment, budgeted amount \$4,954,933.
- **Motion (FG) to accept new assessment, seconded (WT) for discussion.**
- Additional Transportation cost to Town will be \$36,835.
- Jack Malone asked the BOS how we can go up on an line item in the budget.
- (FG) responded that we are not going above the number voted, due to a higher figure budgeted for Minimum Local Contribution.
- Jack Malone stated that his understanding was that they couldn't increase the budget, only lower it.
- (CB) responded that he believed that it was the overall budget, to reject would need a Town Meeting.
- (CB) WRSD are offsetting part of the cost with money they anticipated putting in the E&D Fund.
- Jack Malone asked what WRSD surplus is as opposed to the Town's.
- (CB) WRSD has a surplus between \$1.7 and \$1.9 million, the Town's FY09 Free Cash was certified at \$213,557.
- (FG) stated that he would contact Town Counsel regarding the Assessment and let everyone know at the next BOS meeting.

- (WT) stated that Dr. Pandiscio is asking that parents contact their Senators and State Reps regarding these cuts.
- (FG) stated that at last week's LGAC meeting nothing was looking good for the next two years at least. There are cuts in Pilot, Quinn Bill and Special Education.
- (FG) Looking to help towns with costs of regionalization, as they see this as a way to cut costs.

Special Election

- (FG) with (MQ) resignation effective November 30, 2009, need to decide whether or not to hold a Special Election to fill the vacant seat until the Annual Town Election in May 2010.
- (FG) concerned that with only two members remaining that they may run into problems should one of the members not be available.
- To save costs the election can take place the same date as the election to fill the Senate Seat on January 19, 2010, but the election would need to be called today – 64 days before the date of the Election.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to hold a Special Election on January 19, 2010 to fill seat, with polls open 7am to 8pm. (MQ) recused.**
- Susan Stone, Town Clerk stated that nomination papers for the Selectmen's seat could be taken out tomorrow and needed signatures of 25 registered voters.
- The Board of Selectmen signed a previously prepared letter to the Town Clerk informing her of the vote of the Board of Selectmen to hold a Special Town Meeting to fill the vacant Selectmen seat.

Other Business

- Letter received from Michael Putnam, DPW Superintendent stating that with the present financial situation and the bleak outlook for FY11, he is recommending not filling the vacant Heavy Equipment position at this time. He intends to use part-time plow operators this winter to fill the void.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to accept the DPW Superintendents recommendation. Unanimous all in favor.**
- (FG) stated that the DPW will have a new piece of equipment for this winter.
- (CB) stated that the Superintendent has changed snowing routes to maximize equipment and employees.
- Jack Malone asked when a decision would be made regarding the old Police Department building.
- (FG) responded that it would be taken up at their next meeting.

- **Motion (WT) seconded (MQ) to adjourn regular meeting at 7:50pm. Unanimous all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Administrative Assistant