

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 8, 2010

Members Present: Frederick G. Goodrich, Chair
William A. Trotta, Vice Chair
Peter Bogren. Jr Clerk

Attendees: See attendee list

- Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Reorganization of Board of Selectman

(FG) propose reorganization of the BOS as follows:

(FG) Chair
(WT) Vice Chair
(PB) Clerk.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (WT) to accept reorganization. Unanimous all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2010. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2010.**

Board of Selectmen Liaisons

- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept revised liaisons. (list attached)**

RFP – 10 West Street

- (CB) received a call this evening from someone interested in leasing or buying the property.
- (PB) suggested leasing out the whole building and not restricting to first floor.
- (CB) only useable storage area for Town records.
- (PB) if no response to leasing first floor, consider opening up an RFP for the use of the whole building.

Town Administrators Update

Worcester Regional Retirement Pension

- Due to the poor performance of the State Pension Plan full funding of the WRRS liability has been put back from 2028 to 2030. The proposal before the legislature is to extend the year for full funding to 2040.

- Paxton's total FY11 appropriation is \$223,573 compared to \$219,007 in FY10, this is an increase of only 2% because member appropriations are based on a percentage the member's qualified payroll, and Paxton had no payroll increases last year.
- Governor's proposal for House II budget includes recommended pension adoption to keep community increases manageable.

December Ice Storm

- Based on the actual expense that we had to pay out, the borrowing authorized this year is sufficient to cover our expenditures after the receipt of the 10.8% MEMA reimbursement. No additional ice storm borrowing will be required next year.

State Aid

- Hoping for the Governor's proposal to level fund State Aid is adopted by the House and Senate, however, if a reduction does come it may be closer to 10% rather than 16% estimated by (CB) in January.
- With a 10% reduction in local aid looking at a \$110,000 deficit.
- (FG) brought BOS up to date on legislative discussions:
- \$600 million Medicare federal stimulus money may not happen.
- Schools circuit breaker re-storage still under discussion.
- Quinn Bill still being discussed looking to exempt towns from town's share unless part of the contract.
- Health Care most towns not going to GIC, looking at an 11% or 12% increase.
- Early Retirement not likely to pass.
- Stimulus money being held, looking for a greater economic impact.

Other Business

- (WT) stated that a meeting he had with Timothy Murray, he was informed that there was money to be had for water projects and asked whether the Town were pursuing.
- (CB) responded that the Town does not have the money to do engineering and design work.
- Jack Malone, Water Commissioner stated that they have committed \$25,000 to do a study for a water facilities filtration plant, DEP is insisting that they do mandated testing every two months for a year, so are not "shovel ready" at this to apply for any money.
- Did a water study four years ago and are well aware of the locations of eroded pipes and what water pressure they are up against.
- (JM) stated that the Water Commissioners have a request into their State Representatives for \$220,000.

- (CB) have the project in for stimulus money; they have a multitude of projects that need to be completed. Need a firm number on the cost of the filtration plant, all depends on what level of water treatment is required.
- (CB) discussed the rising cost of Worcester Water to Paxton, paying higher rate for every gallon used. The Water Commission is hoping to meet with Worcester Water and renegotiate the rate to Paxton.
- (JM) stated that everyone is doing a tremendous job looking at how to lower costs.

5 Whitney Drive - Trash Fee

- Diane Dillman looking to have the trash fee removed for 5 Whitney Drive. The house has been empty a year and there has been limited water and electricity usage.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to suspend the trash fee. Unanimous all in favor.**
- Budget schedule for meetings with Departments handed out.
- (WT) asked if they could look at liaison list again, he would like to keep the Recreation Commission.
- (PB) and (FG) agreed to this.
- (WT) did a "shout out" to Coach Kusz for doing such a good job with the Boys Basketball team. Support of the team by the school and parents was overwhelming.

Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to adjourn regular meeting at 8:05pm. Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Administrative Assistant