

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 4, 2010

Members Present: Fred Goodrich, Chair
Bill Trotta, Vice Chair
Peter Bogren, Jr., Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: see Attendee List

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2010. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2010. Unanimous all in favor.**

Request to place signs

- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to allow WRSD Booster Club to put up signs on October 29, 2010 advertising the Craft Fair at the school on November 14, 2010. Unanimous all in favor**

Paxton Town Administrator Search Committee

- Received three letters from members of the public showing an interest in being a member of the committee. Gary Goldberg, Labor Attorney, Peter Dawson, Attorney and Paul James a Business owner.
- (FG) suggested appointing Peter Dawson and Paul James.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to appoint to the Paxton Town Administrator Search Committee. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to appoint Richard Fenton, Finance Committee Member to the Paxton Town Administrator Search Committee. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to appoint Peter Bogren, Selectman, to the Paxton Town Administrator Search Committee. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to appoint Chief Robert Desrosiers, Department Manager to the Paxton Town Administrator Search Committee. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **(CB) previously provided the BOS and Richard Fenton with a copy of the advertisement for the position.**

- (FG) asked the salary be changed to \$75,000 to \$85,000 and all BOS agreed that the residency requirement to be resident in Worcester County be removed.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to remove residency requirement in Worcester County. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to approve the advertisement. Unanimous all in favor.**
- (CB) stated that he would notify the committee and arrange a meeting.

PILOT Update

- (PB) asked that (FG) provide an update of progress towards a PILOT program.
- (PB) AMC will have a 40million property when the new dorms are complete, which would amount to \$174,000 in PILOT, if schedule similar to Worcester Water.
- (PB) request that (FG) provide in writing an update of where he is in negotiations.
- (FG) responded that he is meeting with the AMC President and Financial Officer and would provide an update after that meeting.
- (PB) asked (FG) what his goal was and what was he looking for?
- (FG) an amount for a number of years with a percentage increase each year.
- (WT) asked that someone take the minutes from the meeting with AMC tomorrow, so everyone knows what is happening.
- (FG) Negotiations with Worcester Water should coincide PILOT and a reduction in the water rates, and income for stumpage, from clearing of the land; so as not to be negotiating one thing at a time.
- (PB) should focus on AMC.
- (CB) pointed out that Chapter 59 value of property is the value three years before transferring to other municipality, aimed at keeping the value down over the years.

Town Administrators Update

PILOT

- Summary of the PILOT programs in place with the City of Worcester as appeared in the Telegram & Gazette, (CB) stated that the BOS might wish to request copies of these.

Town of Grafton

- Town of Grafton is undertaking a study, to see if it might be advantageous to be a "Collegetown".
- (WT) suggested that (CB) contact the company who is doing the study, and see what the cost would be for Paxton.

Masterplan Implementation Committee

- Plans and publicity for The Village Center Planning Workshop to be held on October 14, at

6:30pm are on the way.

Correspondence

- Letter of Resignation from Michael Benoit from the Light Commissioners.
- (WT) asked whether the advertisement for the \$95,000 Light Department Managers position was advertised anywhere other than the positing in the Town Hall. He would like a report from Diane Dillman, Light Department Manager of the process for choosing a candidate to see if it coincides with the legal procedure.
- (FG) responded that he believes the opening was sent to other Light Departments and that he believes that once a commissioner resigns, he must not apply for the position for 30 days.
- (PB) pointed out that for the record, that Michael Benoit may be the most qualified candidate.
- BOS agreed to contact Diane Dillman and establish what procedures were followed for advertising, reviewing and selecting candidates and see if this coincides with the law and also check with Town Counsel as to when someone in office, can apply for an open position.
- Letter from Charter, providing details of rate changes: base rate increasing from \$10.94 to \$14.44. (WT) asked that (CB) contact Charter for an explanation for increases.
- Letter from Charles Eisenberg, Housing Partners, Inc. informing the Board that BOS that as well as being a consultant for Housing Partners and advising PHP, he has an ongoing relationship with JK Scanlan Co. the parent company of JKS Paxton LLC; one of the companies that has submitted a RFP to develop senior apartments.
- Town Counsel has advised that he needs to file a disclosure of financial interest with the BOS and request approval to participate in the review and selection of the proposals for the RFP. Also that Town Counsel's response does not qualify as an official advisory opinion under Chapter 268A.
- (FG) stated that he had spoken with the Chair of PHP and was expecting a disclosure from Charles Eisenberg but at this time it had not been received, problem not dealing with on September 27th.
- (CB) stated that we only received the letter from Charles Eisenberg on September 27th, provided to the BOS at that time, sent along to Town Counsel September 28th and received a response today.
- (CB) under the statue if Town Counsel is requested, can provide an advisory and refer to State Ethics.
- (PB) stated that he wanted to see Charles Eisenberg make a request for an advisory and sent to State Ethics.

Other Business

- (WT) stated that he wasn't familiar with the sign ordinance, but he had seen signs nailed to tress, and didn't think that was right.

- John Malone, resident asked if someone could take a look at the political sign on Grove St and Pleasant St, believed it to be a distraction to drivers. (CB) will take a look at the sign.

Public Session

- Richard Hafey, requested clarification of the Village Center Forum.
- (FG) responded that there will a presentation of 60 slides, and then they will divide into group to discuss and provide information to the committee.

Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to adjourn meeting at 9:05pm. Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant

Documents from the Meeting:

Town Administrator's Update – File in Town Administrator's Update Folder

Charles Eisenberg Correspondence – Filed in PHP RFP Folder

Charter Correspondence – Filed in Charter Folder