

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 22, 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 7:30pm.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the November 8, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes. Unanimous all in favor.**

Town Administrators Search Committee

- (PB) explained that the committee was present to put forward three finalists for the Town Administrators Position and that they have worked hard to review all 59 resumes received and had selected 8 candidates for interviews; however 2 had withdrawn before being interviewed. The committee has unanimously agreed on three applicants:
 - Edward MacDonald
 - Pamela Nolan
 - Carol Riches
- (PB) recommended that the BOS interview these candidates on three evening or a Saturday.
- BOS agreed to interview December 1st, 2nd and 4th.
- (FG) thanked the committee on behalf of the selectmen for their work, and the timeliness in which it was done.

Insurance Advisory Committee

- Deirdre Malone, on behalf of the committee presented the BOS with a spreadsheet and memo outlining the recommendations of the committee.
- (DM) seeing an increase in Harvard Pilgrim renewal premiums of 12.7% the committee chose to change plans with an increase in co-payments, which brought the increase down to 6%. Alongside this plan, there is a choice of HMO Limited Network, if employees choose this plan their premiums would be reduced over last year's premiums but they would be limited in health care providers.
- The Retirees plan has increased by 5.5% over last year, to offset this the committee chose

to offer the Harvard Pilgrim Enhance for Seniors \$15, OV\$10/20/35, this would be a slightly reduced premium over 2010 but the co-payments would increase by \$10. However, prescriptions cost would not increase and with the new health reform act providing free well visits, the committee felt this was the best option.

- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee for 2011.**
- (CB) pointed out that the same arrangement would be expected as in previous years, whereby the Lively Insurance and the BOS reimburse the employee for the increase in the inpatient and outpatient co-payments above \$250.

Adrian & Rita Zeffert, 6 Pond Street- Leased Pole

- Mr. & Mrs. Zeffert were present to request a reimbursement for the \$5 per month they have paid for the leased light placed on Pond Street, which they have paid for 2 years following the Board refusal to pay for this at the time and to request that the Town now continues to pay for this light.
- (FG) stated that the original request was to place a light on the Zefferts driveway, the contract is with the Light Dept., but asked that the other two BOS members go take a look at the lighting in that area.
- Mrs Zeffert, believes that the light adds security for both her family and several neighbors, none of which have complained about the light.
- (PB) expressed his concern at setting a precedent, that other may lease lights and then expect the BOS to pay for them.
- Mrs. Zeffert was asked to provide a letter of agreement to the light being there from her neighbors, but she stated that she did not have the time to do this.
- Mrs. Zeffert stated that if the Town was not going to pay for the light, neither would she.
- (FG) agreed to take under advisement.

Paxton Center School Repairs – MSBA Green Program

- Letter received from Dr. Pandisco, WRSD Superintendent informing the BOS that the three projects submitted by the WRSD for funding under the Green Schools Repair Program, have been accepted.
- At the request of the District the MSBA has agreed that one Owners Project Manager can be hired for all three projects, saving the Towns money. MSBA has requested \$15,000 for this position and the request will go before the School Committee as a Major Repair under the School Lease Agreement.
- This would require debt exclusion for the full cost of the project of \$489,096.
- (CB) stated that for this to be successful, it would require a united front from all BOS members.
- (PB) responded that if the BOS vote to go forward, he will proceed with the vote and present a united front.

- (FG) asked (CB) to check into the effect on the tax rate if the debt was added.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to accept Owners Project Manager for all three properties. Unanimous all in favor.**

Report of the November 17, 2010 Meeting with Planning Office of Urban Affairs

- (FG) stated at the meeting the biggest point was the \$100,000- \$150,000 escrow account for the Housing Partners Inc. fees. Planning Office of Urban Affairs put in a counter proposal of \$25,000.
- (FG) suggested to them to place fees in \$25,000 increments into escrow, and replenish as needed.
- (FG) Planning Office of Urban Affairs is going to look into where they can obtain the funding for this.
- (FG) Planning Office of Urban Affairs will have 2 years beyond the assignment date of October 25, 2010 to start construction with a provision to extend by a further 6 months.
- (FG) 70% of apartments will be reserved for Paxton residents if they qualify. There are sufficient to qualify, but Paxton residents are reluctant to admit their income.
- (PB) asked whether "sufficient" was based on the statistical data or his personal knowledge.
- (FG) responded that the PHP survey showed that there was not a problem with qualifying people.
- (CB) added that Planning Office of Urban Affairs had stated that generally only \$10,000 to \$15,000 was escrowed for these projects and that they were willing to put in a sum of \$25,000 as a fee for overseeing the project.
- (FG) stated that he had asked Martha Akstin to go to the second choice developer and see what their opinion was of the escrow amount, Martha had responded that they would view it positively if offered to do the development.
- (CB) suggested that the BOS request a copy of the Housing Partners Inc. proposal for the fees of \$100,000.

Town Administrators Update

False Alarms

- False alarms at AMC continue to be a problem and the Fire Chief has provided information showing fees paid of \$6834 FY2010 and \$2132 for FY2011 to date with \$1400 outstanding. This has impacted his budget and after speaking with the Town Accountant, a recommended course of action if efforts to curtail these false alarms by AMC are not successful is to contact the Finance Committee for a reserve fund transfer.
- (FG) false alarm fees were instituted by the Town, he has reviewed the Fire Dept budget and there is no issue in the labor accounts however the purchase services account is 70% depleted. Incentive plan in place is based on training, if budget not maintained then no stipends could be offered at the end of the year. Not in favor of this action at this stage.

- (CB) responded that this type of merit is not productive, concept based on a method along time ago, and if this comes before the board, he hopes that it will be looked at to change.

Computer Network

- Town Hall network has been modified to make better use of the fiber connection between the Town Hall and the Public Safety Complex; this will result in faster Internet connection and eliminate some of the email problems.

MIIA

- MIIA has once again offered the Town a renewal proposal that will provide for a 0% increase in FY12 and a capped rate increase of no more than 2.5% for FY13. Recommending take advantage of this.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to accept the recommendation. Unanimous all in favor.**

Thanksgiving

- As in the past, requesting that the Town Hall be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving. Employees who normally work can choose to take a vacation day.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to accept that the Town Hall will be closed after Thanksgiving. Unanimous all in favor.**

Correspondence

- Letter from the Light Commissioner requesting the appointment of Michael Benoit as a Light Commissioner until the next Annual Town Election in May 2011.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to appoint Michael Benoit to the Light Commission. Unanimous all in favor.**
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) Unanimous all in favor.**

Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to adjourn meeting at 9:55pm. Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant

Documents from the Meeting:

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

Insurance Advisory Committee Correspondence – File in Insurance Advisory Committee Folder

Zeffert Letter - BOS requests

Appointment Letter – Town Clerk's Office