

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 11 2011

Members Present: William A. Trotta, Chairman
Peter Bogren, Jr., Vice Chairman

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the Select Board Meeting to order at 7:03pm

Greater Worcester Land Trust

- Mr. Collin Novick with the Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) spoke in regards to seeing if the Town of Paxton would be interested in working together with the City of Worcester and the GWLT in acquiring the property currently known as Muir Farm. The property owner is currently asking a \$1,000,000 for this property. Mr. Novick pointed out some reasons as to why this piece of land is important. It would help protect an important water supply (Southwick Pond) for the City of Worcester. An important part of the Route 122 scenic byway. A possible five town greenway. This could be used as a public and recreational resource as well.

The City of Worcester would also be able to apply for a grant and would be the holder of the property which would have a conservation restriction on it. The City of Worcester would apply for the grant as protection for the body of water, and could receive up to \$500,000 from the state. The City of Worcester is looking to donate \$300,000. They are looking for private donations of \$100,000 and also an additional \$100,000 from the Town of Paxton. They are looking to submit the grant to the state within the next month to month and a half.

David Richards and Eddy Blanchard are looking for a non-refundable deposit of \$100,000. The City of Worcester has not committed yet, because they wanted to see what the Town of Paxton thought. The GWLT has another meeting with the City of Worcester of Friday, and the GWLT will make the deposit. (WT) How did they arrive at the price of \$1,000,000? Collin Novick stated that the GWLT made an offer some years ago of \$1,000,000, and they had an appraisal done, and at this point in time \$1,000,000 is the limit of what they can afford. Mr. Novick feels that the GWLT will have no problem in raising the \$100,000 needed in private donations. (WT) Is concerned that the property owner is taking advantage

of this situation; because they know that the 40B project is not looked upon favorably. (WT) Also the town is currently receiving taxes on this property. Mr. Novick agreed, but also pointed out that the town would incur additional costs to support a 40B project, and that the property owner has already invested some money in the development of the 40b project.

(WT) Who is going to pay for maintaining this land for recreational use? Mr. Novick explained that the Worcester Reservation staff would oversee and maintain the property. This would include such items as maintain the hiking trails and policing the property. There would not be a very extensive recreation use of this property. (PB) Felt that it made sense to lock up that property for \$100,000. (WT) We would like to put it out to the public to see how they feel and to see if the support is there from the other side before going any further. Robert Bertin a former Open Space Committee member stated that this property was a priority on their master plan, and thought that there may be some dedicated funds for land acquisition that the Conservation Commission held. Representative Mahoney spoke in support of this effort to purchase this land as well.

(PB) what are the chances of getting the grant from the state? Mr. Novick felt that this was a good possibility, because the state is looking to put money into supporting water systems. (PB) We should wait for the other board member Jack Malone before we vote. (WT) Let the residents see this meeting and we will progress from there.

Matthew Noponen

- William Trotta in favor of Matthew Noponen for Recreation Commission. Peter Bogren in favor of Matthew Noponen for Recreation Commission.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to appoint Matthew Noponen to the Recreation Committee. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Rodney Jenkins

- William Trotta in favor of Rodney Jenkins for the Water Board. Peter Bogren in favor of Rodney Jenkins for the Water Board.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to appoint Rodney Jenkins to the Water Board. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Steven Mucci

- William Trotta in favor of Steven Mucci as a part time Dispatcher. Peter Bogren in favor of Steven Mucci as a part time Dispatcher.

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to appoint Steven Mucci as a part time Dispatcher. Unanimous, all in favor.**

AMC on campus police update

- Chief Desrosiers updated the Board of Selectmen on how things are going with the policing of Anna Maria College (AMC). Currently the assessment phase is going well, and we have learned a lot of what we need. We have met with AMC and our Treasurer Deirdre Malone to look for any hidden costs that may have been missed during the process of putting a budget together for FY2012. There will be a clause that if any hidden costs are discovered then both sides will sit back down and review the budget. Chief Desrosiers provided a preliminary budget for the board to review. We will lease a vehicle for AMC to be kept at the college and this will be worked into our fleet, which will alleviate the town having to purchase a vehicle on that particular rotation.
- Some of the current staff at AMC could be hired. Most of them could become a standing police officer with some additional training. (WT) Where would they be trained? Chief Desrosiers stated at the college and some programs through the town.
- The worst case scenario was worked in with the health insurance which means the town will be making some money from the college. AMC did agree that if there was a surplus for good management that the town could use that surplus to go back into making improvements to the department. (PB) They do not want the town to make any money off the program, but any additional money can go back into the program.
- (WT) How will pay increases be handled? Chief Desrosiers explained that the college typically gives a 3% increase to the staff every year, and they budget out 2 to 3 years at a time. (WT) We need to keep everyone in the department equal with the pay. Chief Desrosiers said they are all our employees. (PB) When will you be drafting the contract? The Chief stated that they are waiting to complete the budget first and then will complete the contract. (PB) Will there be any type of an escape clause? Chief stated there will be a 9 month escape clause on a 3 to 5 year contract. (PB) What will the chain of command be? Chief's reply is that the college has agreed to the structure that the police department has established. The college just wants us to take care of the police issues so they can concentrate on the academic side. We are meeting with AMC on Tuesday at 11:00am, and then a draft of the contract will be coming soon.

Social Media

- Chief Desrosiers presented the board with a social media policy that he would like adopted for the police department. We want a comprehensive policy in place that deals directly with this issue. The Board will review the policy and discuss further at a later meeting.

Worcester County Memorial Park

- Donated \$4,000 worth of new Tasers to the town. There will be one available per shift. (WT) When will they be trained? Chief stated sometime in August or September. (PB) Who approached whom for the donation? It was some time ago, but Chief Desrosiers believed that Officer Keller was in contact first with the Worcester County Memorial Park.

Police Officers Contract

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to accept the Police Officers Contract. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Congregational Church

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to allow the First Congregational Church to use the Town Common area for their annual fall yard sale and cookout. Unanimous, all in favor**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to accept the June 20 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes. Unanimous, all in favor.**

James Robert

- William Trotta in favor of James Robert for the Local Superintendent of Insect Pest Control. Peter Bogren in favor of James Robert for the Local Superintendent of Insect Pest Control.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (WT) to appoint James Robert as the Local Superintendent of Insect Pest Control. Unanimous, all in favor.**

End of Year Transfers

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to approved End of Year Transfers. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Amount Transferred

\$600.00

\$150.00

\$200.00

\$200.00

Acct transferred to

0100-1610-5200-0000

0100-1122-5200-0000

0100-1122-5400-0000

0100-1155-5200-0000

\$2,000.00	6500-1450-5400-0000
\$3,500.00	6500-1450-5400-0000
\$877.43	0100-1491-5400-0000

Town Administrators update

1. At your last meeting you were asked to appoint Joan Bedard as a full member to the Council on Aging, but deferred this as there was a question as to whether an associate should take this position.

I checked with the COA and it appears that we did not have all the associate members listed and Joan was an associate at the time they appointed her to a full member.

Recommended Action: Accept the appointment of Joan Bedard to the Council on Aging.

- William Trotta in favor of Joan Bedard for the Council on Aging. Peter Bogren in favor of Joan Bedard for the Council on Aging.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to appoint Joan Bedard to the Council on Aging. Unanimous, all in favor.**

2. The Board has never voted to release Executive Session Minutes. Please see below from the Open Meeting Law Guidelines:

“According to the Open Meeting Law, the minutes of an executive session “may remain secret as long as publication may defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer.” Generally, the decision about when to release the minutes of an executive session is up to the members of the board or committee. The Attorney General’s Office recommends, however, that each board or committee adopt a policy requiring that unreleased executive sessions be reviewed on a regular basis. Such a policy will help ensure that closed-session minutes are kept secret only as long as necessary and as authorized under the law.”

Recommended Action: That the Board start a timetable for reviewing these minutes in order to vote to release at their regular meetings.

(CR) will review which ones can be released starting with the most recent and working back a few at a time.

3. The bids opening for the ten year lease to own Four Wheel Drive Front End Loader were open on Friday, July 8th. We received two bids but only one bid met all the bid specifications. Attached is a comparison of the specifications.

SouthWorth – Milton Inc., \$27,028 per year
John Deere - \$26,195.56 per year

Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent has thoroughly reviewed these two bids. Mike is recommending that the board accept the bid submitted by Southworth – Milton Inc., which meets all the specifications on the sum of \$27,028 per year.

Recommended Action: Accept the recommendation of the, DPW Superintendent and the bid received from Southworth – Milton Inc.

Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to accept the recommendation of the, DPW Superintendent and the bid received from Southworth – Milton Inc.
Unanimous, all in favor.

Nanigian Road

- (PB) The left side of the property is wet, but the right side looks ok. (WT) Not in favour of taking over this piece of land and losing the taxes. We should wait until Jack comes back to further discuss.

Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to adjourn meeting at 8:15pm. Unanimous all in favor.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2011 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant

Documents from the Meeting:
Town Administrator's Update – File in Town Administrator's Update Folder
Social Media Policy – On file in Selectmen's office