

# **Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, August 4, 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 6:02pm

### **Front End Loader - DPW**

- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to approve the lease on the Four Wheel Drive Front End Loader. Unanimous all in favor.**

### **AMC Police**

- (WT) Who has checked on the financial records for Anna Maria?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated that all the financials for the college are public record for anyone to look at.
- (WT) What are the schools financials?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated about \$25,000,000
- (WT) How much in expenditures?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated between twenty four and twenty five million
- (WT) How much in debt reserve?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated \$28,000,000.
- (WT) What do you expect for enrolment this year?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated between 1,500 to 1,600 students.
- (WT) Does the college have any other sources of income?
- Sheryl Sleboda replied they do with such items as fund raisers, grants, and rental fees for the facility.
- (WT) Does the college have an endowment?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated that yes the college does and it has grown over the years, and the college does not use that.
- (WT) What was the cost of the old security department?

- Sheryl Sleboda stated that it was close to the current contract with Paxton of \$500,000.
- (PB) On page 1 paragraph 5 of the contract originally it was a grant and now it goes through the town meeting and the finance committee would be involved. I would like to see it as a budget item through the town to protect the position of the Chief for the future years to come.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that they were trying to keep this as a separate source of funding so that it does not add to the tax dollars. This now brings money in and now everyone is very interested, when in the past when the budgets were cut no one stepped up to help.
- Mark Donoghue remarked that he had spoken to the Chief and Town Administrator about this, and they wanted to try and have a contract in place for August 15<sup>th</sup>. I sent a working draft to the Town Administrator and suggested as to where this could go. Feedback would be helpful in the final contract.
- (PB) When did this conversation occur?
- Mark Donoghue replied it was in late May.
- (PB) Did this idea of a grant come from you?
- Mark Donoghue replied that it was in the initial draft. Would you like the funds to go into a general fund or into a grant? Either way it should be a designated fund.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that the Town Accountant has already set up an account for expenses and payroll.
- (PB) asked Mr Donoghue if he felt that there would be any liability issues with town employees going over to Anna Maria.
- Mark Donoghue replied there should not be any unforeseen situations or liabilities.
- (PB) Does AMC have any satellite campuses?
- Sheryl Sleboda replied yes in Worcester and this would be under the Paxton Police.
- (PB) The contract states campuses within town, so a change will need to be made to cover the Worcester campus.
- (PB) On page 3 section A of the contract it states that \$50,000 may be used to cover expenses. Do we have to spend this?
- Mark Donoghue stated that there is no obligation for the town to spend the \$50,000.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that we will send out monthly invoices to cover our expenses.
- (PB) What does Anna Marie expect the budget will be for the second year?
- Sheryl Sleboda stated that next year may be a bit low, because the initial equipment purchase has been taken care of this year, but we don't expect a drastic drop.
- (PB) Page 5 section C of the contract states that during hard financial times could services be cut back at Anna Maria?
- Mark Donoghue stated that this is in here to note that public safety is covered throughout the town.
- Sheryl Sleboda replied that the town should provide what the school is paying for.
- (WT) Remarked that if we sign a three year contract with Anna Maria and the town budget is cut that additional response to Anna Maria may be light.

- Chief Desrosiers commented that we are trying to keep this separate in order to keep it clean.
- (PB) Questioned the additional raise given to the Administrative Assistant without any additional hours being incurred?
- Chief Desrosiers replied that grants are being co-written with the college so a stipend has been set up to pay the Administrative Assistant. I am constantly adding responsibilities on her.
- (PB) How do we answer this question when asked.
- Chief Desrosiers response is that the stipend is in recognition of working harder to accomplish additional responsibilities that are being taken on in the same number of hours.
- (PB) I need to be able to justify this to other town employees that are upset over this.
- (WT) We have to be careful about paying someone twice for the same job. Look at either paying overtime or a one-time stipend. Town Counsel will take a look at this.
- Carol Riches commented on item number 6 section C, and (PB) stated that since this not going through the General Fund this can be taken out.
- (WT) Referred to page 2 section B of the contract. Should the lieutenant be the liaison or his designee when not available.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that it has been made very clear who the communication will be with, and we have established a chain of command.
- Mark Donohue stated that broad terms were used in the contract so that in future years it is the best person to be the liaison. This does not necessarily mean that it will be the Lieutenant always.
- Carol Riches state that this will allow each side to designate a liaison.
- (WT) Verified on page 1 of the contract that the 5 full time employees will not be unionized and the 2 police officers can join the union.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that the security officers will be replaced by full time police officers.
- (WT) Since all officers are town employees aren't they covered by the town's insurance?
- Carol Riches stated that we have a separate coverage with CHUBB for the police. Mark and Carol will verify this.
- (WT) Would like to see additional duties added to the contract. This should include what action to be taken in an incident shall be the determination of the Chief of Police.
- Chief Desrosiers state that the president of the college fully understands that the Chief of Police has the final say, and if that should change in any way then the agreement between the town and the college could go away.
- (WT) I want the final decision to lie with the Chief and I want this added to the contract.
- Rich Fenton spoke and stated that he has only seen the budget and he is not sure what the town will benefit from this? I have two questions. The first being why can't we eliminate a salary and the second being if we have two groups why isn't AMC paying a larger portion of the chief's involvement? This is just from the outside looking in with concern over the budget.

- (PB) Every campus should have a police staff, and we should not have to call in any additional support. The benefit is that if something should flair up in town that our additional support is coming from our staff at Anna Maria. More officers being paid for by the college.
- (WT) It will be one police staff for all and we can handle the college's issues more efficiently and this should prevent issues from escalating. This is a win win for the town and the college community.
- Anita Fenton inquired as to how the satellite campus comes into play on this.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that the satellite campus is not so much law enforcement as it is a security job and dial 911. Worcester police and Paxton would work together on any incidents that occur.
- Sheryl Sleboda stated that the Worcester campus is mainly evening and Saturday morning adult students.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that we have mutual aid agreement with Worcester.
- (WT) Wants added to contract that the lease vehicle will become part of the fleet at the end of the leasing agreement.
- Chief Desrosiers questioned when would the updated draft be available.
- Mark Donohue stated it should be ready late Friday or Monday.
- Carol Riches stated that Mark Donohue and Chief Desrosiers will speak, and if there are no more questions it will be all set for August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (WT) We should be all set for our next meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> to vote on the contract.

**Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to adjourn meeting at 7:02pm. Unanimous all in favor.**

**Next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2011 at 7:00pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant

Documents from the Meeting: