



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
(508) 754-7638 – phone (508) 797-0966 – fax
dparsons@townofpaxton.net

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 19, 2012

Meeting Location: John Bauer Senior Center 17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Members Present: Peter Bogren, Jr., Chairman
John F. Malone, Vice Chairman
Frederick G. Goodrich, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Insurance Advisory Committee

- Yvette Orell and Deirdre Malone were present for the committee to discuss the new rates for the employee insurance coverage.
- Yvette Orell stated that the Insurance Advisory Committee would recommend that we remain with Lively Insurance. They were able to maintain our current policy with only an increase of 1.635%. We would also recommend keeping the same two plans that we currently have in place for the seniors as well.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to approve the renewal of the current Harvard Pilgrim health plan and town arrangements for the employees and to also renew the two current plans offered to our retirees. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Free Cash

- (JM) Over the past few months we have cut too much from the important departments i.e. DPW, Ambulance, Fire and Police which has shifts that are not covered. We had a domestic call during one of these uncovered shifts, and had to bring in the officer that was at AMC with no backup.
- (PB) How do you want to divide the Free Cash?
- (JM) Put \$200,000 into Stabilization and put the four public safety departments back to their original request, but divided in half since we are half way through the year now.
- (FG) We do need to restore some of the budgets. Carol prepared a restoration of \$75,000 to the budgets, and then some needs to go into Depreciation.
- (PB) I'm nervous about taking this money right now.

- (JM) If we don't then the Finance Committee will take it to balance the budget as they do every year.
- (FG) State aid is also going to be an issue this year.
- (JM) We have not received any updates from the school that we have asked for.
- (FG) The school budget will be the responsibility of the new Business Manager.
- (JM) We should have a Special Town Meeting and let the public decide what they want to do with the money.
- (FG) Is the \$75,000 the right number that will help the departments?
- (PB) You are recommending that \$200,000 go into Stabilization, roughly 75,000 goes back into restoring budgets and \$115,222 goes into the depreciation account?
- (CR) You should not bother with the \$200,000 in stabilization because you will need it for next year.
- (JM) Finance Committee will need to adjust their number for insurance from a 15% increase to the 1.635% just settled on.
- (PB) My concern is that everyone gets the right information to make an informed decision at a Special Town Meeting.
- (JM) Is it correct that the Wachusett teachers have a 90/10 split for health insurance?
- (PB) As I understand it they were given that split so they would accept going into the GIC program. They have also agreed to have Dr. Pandiciso assist with the budget process for next year as well.
- (PB) Do we want to make a motion that have a Special Town Meeting to divide up the Free Cash?
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to have a Special Town Meeting to put \$115,222 into the Depreciation Account, \$74,000 back into budget restoration, and \$200,000 into the Stabilization Account.**
- (PB) Do we do this without a discussion with the Finance Committee?
- (JM) I have no problem waiting until our next meeting to discuss this with Finance.
- (PB) Then we will leave the motion on the table and take it up with the Finance Committee at our next meeting on December 3, 2012, and then finalize with a proposed Special Town Meeting on January 14, 2013.

Gas Usage

- (FG) The gas usage is easy to track with Citgo. All the mechanisms are in place we just need to make sure we are using them.
- (JM) On off hours the officers should be calling the information into the dispatch center.
- (FG) This would need some administrative work, because you would need to have a card that goes to each vehicle, and then it would be automatically recorded.
- (PB) Carol would you please look into setting this up.

Ground Mounted Facilities

- (JM) In speaking with the Assessor and Town Accountant at this point we should just require the \$250,000 up front for the bond, and leave it at that to start with.
- Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to have the Planning Board establish that a**

\$250,000 bond will be required for any new Ground Mounted Facilities established. Unanimous, all in favor.

Gas bid

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the bid for gasoline from Bill's Garage in Rutland. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

FY14 Ambulance Contract

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to recommend that Chief Conte continue moving forward with the Fy14 Ambulance contract. Frederick Goodrich opposed until he can discuss further with Chief Conte. 2 to 1 in favor, motion passed.**

CIC Grant

- Gary Kelleher, Rutland DPW Superintendent discussed the possibility of a joint purchasing project. There are 5 communities that would share a \$183,000 bucket truck. A schedule would be set up for use of the vehicle between the five communities. This is a brand new International that would be housed in Rutland. For the first three years we would ask that each community put \$1,000 into an account that would be held for any maintenance that needed to be done on the vehicle. At this point I am looking for signatures from the Board in order to move forward with this grant.
- **(PB)** Is there a cost for training?
- Mr. Kelleher replied that it would be included in the purchasing of the hoisting equipment.
- Mike Putnam stated that the town would never be able to afford a specialty vehicle like this. This would provide a good opportunity for the town.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the signing of the grant application. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **(CR)** Suggested to add the training cost to the grant.

Capital Improvement Requests

- The Town Hall will need a new furnace. Estimate from McDonald's is \$6,000.
- Roof on the COA. Estimate for repairs is \$3,000
- **(FG)** Capital may change guideline from \$10,000 to \$5,000 for an item to be considered a Capital request.
- **(FG)** Expressed concern about the work that has been done for the Town by McDonald.
- **(PB)** Could you please provide us with those concerns so we can address them.

- **(CR)** I feel that they respond very quickly, and have done a good job for the town.
- **(JM)** Asked James Stone if there are any grants available to help get some work done on the Town Hall.
- James Stone stated that the Capital Improvement Committee already has that plan.

Setting topics for discussion on meeting agendas

- **(PB)** The Open Meeting Law states that something unforeseen can be brought up for discussion at a meeting, however every effort should be made to have topics placed on the agenda in the proper time allotted. From this point forward please make every effort to give Donna the topics you would like to discuss so they may be put on the agenda.

Town Administrators Update

1. In light of this year's concerns regarding EEE and West Nile Decease, the Recreation Commission discussed this at their last meeting in preparation of future summer months and provided the attached for your information.
2. We were informed by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) that we were unsuccessful in our application for grant funding for FY12. The COPS office was only able to fund 17% of the applications received.
3. Attached is a form that we have adapted from another town to post on the website to encourage residents to volunteer for committees.
4. Central Mass Regional Stormwater Coalition is moving along:

Quarter 1 and 2 Deliverables have been completed and sent to the State; they include DVDs that including training presentation, standard operating procedures and a sump pump policy.

Quarter 3 Deliverables which includes a Best Management Practice Tool box and mapping will take place during the months of November and December.

The mapping work for the thirteen towns has been prioritized to bring everyone up to the same level to satisfy the MS4 2003 permit.

Due to the increased interest of 22 other towns in this project, the coalition intends to apply for further funding from the CIC grant in FY2013. In this regard they have requested that the Board vote to have the Chairman sign the application.

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the signing of the stormwater application. Unanimous, all in favor.**
5. The second Central 13 Prioritization Project will be held on Wednesday, November 28th on the second floor at Union Station. The open house will run from 6:00pm to 7:00pm and the public hearing will run 7pm to 9pm. There will

be a full presentation of the regionally significant priority areas. Panel discussions are planned including a discussion on the "Next Steps".

6. The committee has set the date for next year's Paxton Day as June 22, 2013. We are concentrating on all the events being on the old Wentworth Pool area.
7. I have been approached by Rutland to join them along with Barre and Oakham to apply for a CIC grant to regionalize the Animal Control Officer position. Attached is the application and breakdown of the effects based on the information we currently have. Please give consideration to the application and make a motion to as to whether or not you wish to take part in this grant application.
 - **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to move forward on the CIC grant to regionalize the ACO position. Unanimous, all in favor.**
8. We received notification from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that we have been successful in our Mass Works grant application and awarded \$200,000 to repair the Davis Hill Road Culvert. This is a great relief as we desperately need to repair this culvert and did not foresee any Town funding in the near future.
 - **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to close the Town Hall the Friday after Thanksgiving. Unanimous, all in favor.**
 - Two winners from the Cable Committee survey drawing. Douglas Dawson and Hazel Martel both won \$50.00.

Worcester Water Break

- **(CR)** I would like to commend Mike Putnam and Travis Thibault on a job well done during this time.
- **(FG)** Congratulations to the Water Board, Mike and Travis.
- **(JM)** Mike and Travis took control before and after, and should be commended.
- **(PB)** How long could we go on our own reserves?
- Mike Putnam replied that we could go three days safely. I would like to mention that the communication between Worcester and the DEP during this time was very good.

Correspondence

- **(PB)** read a letter from Sergeant Lang commending officer Morin, officer Tripp and dispatcher Noyes on a job well done in handling an incident on November 8, 2012.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 3, 2012, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:47pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant

Documents filed with Meeting Minutes:

Agenda

Attendance list

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Frederick G. Goodrich
Clerk