



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, December 3, 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.

Meet with Finance to discuss possible Special Town Meeting

- **(PB)** We are here to follow up on a motion that was made at our last meeting to hold a Special Town Meeting in order to distribute our Free Cash into various accounts.
- Rich Fenton stated that with what I have put together so far for our FY14 budget we have \$35,000 left, but there are a lot of what if's. If Free Cash is put into Stabilization we can move it out later if needed. If we move it into Capital it can only be used on Capital items.
- **(PB)** The Police will need an additional \$10,000 next year for the software that needs to be added.
- **(JM)** When I made this motion my intention was to help build up our savings. I am concerned with Police coverage. My reason to do this is to cover all of the Police shifts. We have had a number of incidents that are problematic.
- Rich Fenton replied that we could use our limited resources to cover this year but that just leaves us open to problems next year. We are half way through this year.
- **(FG)** There was an automobile accident last week, and it took three quarters of an hour for State Police to respond, because we had no police coverage. Next year is not going to be any better. I agree that we do need to get coverage for our police.
- Rich Fenton stated that we use Free Cash every year just to balance our budget. We have been very frugal with our budgets.
- **(PB)** I am bothered by our lack of Police coverage. Our first responsibility is to take care of our residents. Jack would you be agreeable to amend the motion to take an amount of money and make an emergency move to the police and leave the rest in Stabilization until later?

- **(CR)** We met with Spencer Rescue and we are looking to work something out. We will know better in January. Everyone is doing a great job in working with in their budgets with the exception of the Police. We should wait until January or February time and revisit, but cover Police shifts. We are going to need all the money we have for next year.
- **(JM)** Asked Rich Fenton is there was any way that we could make a statement that this is what we have, and we need to stand by that number.
- Rich Fenton replied that we have to work together with the other towns. If we have three towns together then we have power.
- **(JM)** I think that Carol's suggestion is a good one and that Finance will work for a number that we can stick to.
- **(PB)** I also agree with the Town Administrators suggestion to fill all Police shifts and revisit this in January or February.
- Rich Fenton replied that I think this is a logical course at this time. I also want to mention that I have asked for an incident report form the Police and have not yet received it.
- **(PB)** When you had a little money left over it went to the library. The number of serious incidents is up.
- Rich Fenton replied that you make it sound as if we don't support public safety. Public Safety is over a million dollars of the town's budget, so we do support public safety. We support everybody.
- Jamie Contonio from the Finance Committee emphasized that he felt we needed to give the Police Chief guidelines to what he is going to be able to cover.
- **(PB)** We are restoring shifts only.
- **(FG)** I want a specific date that we will revisit this.
- **(PB)** Put this on the agenda for the first meeting in March.
- **(JM)** I will withdraw my previous motion.

Capital Improvement Committee

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Dumas from the Capital Improvement Committee. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Current Committee Openings

- **(PB)** announced the following list of current committee openings.
 - Conservation Committee
 - Personnel Advisory Board
 - Cable Committee
 - 250th Town Anniversary Committee
 - Cultural Commission
 - Agricultural Commission
 - PILOT Committee
 - Capital Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Electrical Audit

- (JM) I saw a spike in the electrical usage at the Public Safety Complex. There was an electrical audit performed and the findings have been presented.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to have the Town Administrator see to it that the items presented in the audit are implemented in the most fiscally responsible way. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Open Town Meeting

- (JM) When this first came about I was not in favor of it because we did not have enough time to discuss it prior to the Annual Town Meeting. I would like to see us review it again and present it this year at our Annual Town Meeting.
- (PB) Asked Rich Fenton as to why he spoke against it the first time.
- Rich Fenton replied that it minimized the input of the Finance Committee, but it has been sometime since I have looked at it and I would like to review it again.
- (FG) It has a great deal of reorganization and I would like to review it again myself.
- (CR) recommended that the Finance Committee should be included in the budget process. The Finance Committee Chairman should be part of the Financial Team.

Three Phase Solar Power

- (JM) In the future any solar projects should be presented to the Paxton Light Department prior to coming before the Board of Selectmen. Until the Paxton Light Department says it's something that we need, it should not have to be brought before the Board of Selectmen.
- (PB) Solar power should only be looked at when it is going to provide a rate relief to our customers.
- (FG) At this time I would like to complement our managers with the way have worked through the budget cuts.

Town Hall hours for Christmas and New Years Eve

- (FG) This is for the Town Hall only, and no other departments.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to allow the Town Administrator to make the decision on hours of operation for Christmas and New Year's Eve. Unanimous, all in favor.**

School Committee

- (JM) We need to have a School Committee Member present in order to provide us with any updates as to where things stand.
- (PB) They do not have to answer to us, and I can understand their reasoning for not wanting to appear before the board. If we could meet once a month then that would be a good start to working together. There was a suggestion that we may have buying power with the town and school together.

Anna Maria College Scholarship Committee

- **Motion (FG) seconded (PB) to approve the appointment of Kerrie Flynn – Orciuch to the Anna Maria College Scholarship Committee. Two in favor. John F. Malone recused himself from this vote.**

Paxton Lions Club

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve a toll road for the Paxton Lions Club on December 15th from 8am to 12pm. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

MIS

We have expended 77% of this budget, but this is mainly due to license requirements. With the technical assistance that we are currently receiving from AMC, we should not have any problem with this account.

Police Department

The Police Chief has cancelled and cut as much as possibly in an effort to curb expenditure. He has however informed me that his overtime line item is now depleted. Barring any sickness and vacation requests in December he has 8 uncovered shifts and 6 others shifts with just AMC coverage.

Fire

No problems at this time

EMS

As previously advised the purchase service accounts is now depleted.

DPW

The overtime line item is depleted, mainly due to Hurricane Sandy; this was a line item that was reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000. The drainpipe line item is underfunded and no repair or restocking of inventory will take place until further funding. This item was cut from \$6,000 to \$3,000 to satisfy the August 27th Special Town Meeting.

COA

The Supplies account has been expended by 81.75%, leaving \$419.74 remaining, this account will be monitored.

Central Purchasing

The Electricity account has been expended by 40%; we would typically expect this to be around the 33% range, having only paid 4 bills. This account will be monitored.

Everyone is aware of the restraints of their present budgets and is doing their utmost to keep within them.

EA Fish needs to make some changes to the Ground Lease. They do have a time constraint and we may need to meet next week.

- **(PB)** If we meet next week it will be the only thing on the agenda and we will meet at 7:30pm.
- **(PB)** Just to clarify from our last meeting we do not have any debt on the roof repairs from the COA.
- **(PB)** The WRSD did get a 90/10 split on insurance in order to get them to agree to go into the GIC.
- **(PB)** There is a meeting on December 13th at 7pm at the Holden Senior Center in regards to the Revenue Task Force Sharing Committee.
- **(JM)** When Capital met with the library was the elevator discussed? The cost of this is coming out of the Library Trust.
- **(JM)** When they open up the agreement for Wachusett Regional School District I would like that put on our Agenda for discussion.
- **(JM)** Met with WRTA and they might be able to bring a route through Paxton. We meet again on January 18th.

License renewal

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the renewal of the following licenses for FY14. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Liquor

- Paxton Market Place – Wine & Malt
- Paxton Sports Center - Club
- Paxton Liquor Store – All Liquor
- Anna Maria College - Club
- Kettlebrook Golf Course – Club
- American Legion – Veterans Club

Auto Body Shops

- Paxton Auto

Class II Car Sales

- Paxton Auto
- Paxton Garage
- Middle River Corp.

Common Victuallers

- JLC Donuts Inc.
- Paxton Sports Center
- Paxton House of Pizza
- Paxton American Legion
- Paxton Marketplace
- Kettlebrook Golf Course
- Sage Dining Serv

Packaged Goods

- Paxton Sports Center
- Paxton Liquor Store

- Paxton House of Pizza
- Anna Maria College

Above Ground Tanks

- Urbanovitch Farm
- Paxton Town Garage
- Worcester County Memorial
- Kettlebrook Golf Course
- David Farm
- Industrial Tower & Wireless

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 17, 2012, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 9:00pm, 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