

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 12, 2007

Members Present: Michael Quinlivan, Chair
John F. Malone, Vice Chair
Fred Goodrich, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Minutes

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2007. Unanimous.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2007. Unanimous.

One-Day Liquor License – Friends of COA

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the one-day Liquor License for March 17, 2007. Unanimous.
- (FG) approved because he had asked that the Friends rather than the COA apply for this license, but believes this was done without consulting all the Friends of COA.

WRHS Building Project Progress

- Duncan Leith and Emerson Wheeler present at the request of the BOS to update the Board on the Building Project.
- (DL) Old offices, boiler room and Gym complete. Auditorium will not be accessible until summer, as corridor exiting room cannot be worked on whilst school is in progress.
- Guidance and administration buildings has interior work complete, but brickwork starting shortly.
- Automotive area – expected to move in April 26, 2007, lifts were added at the request of the students to add to the curriculum.

Problems

- Science rooms had weight bearing walls taken down; this was a mistake on the part of the architectural design. Additional cost to rectify.
- Fields are at a standstill – erosion problems that may have occurred due to too much clearing. TLT have guaranteed all fields to be complete by September.
- Floors were taken up in E Section and the contractors had to deal with a burst pipe, a completely new steel inlaid had to be put down and concrete poured.
- Modulares are being removed this summer so all classroom completions are critical.

Costs

- \$70.5 million borrowing approved by Towns but did not include Modular costs of \$4.5 million.
- Field revisions due to location of ledge added to costs.
- \$1 million in savings for non-critical furniture and fixtures.
- \$1.4 erosion control, geological error – looking to recoup this.
- Looking to complete project and working with the architects on errors and omissions.
- Savings of \$10 million due to SBA reimbursement being made within 18 months. Eligible for approximately 68% reimbursement on WRSDC approved borrowing figure of \$81.7 million (legal interpretation that it will cost the towns \$71.5 million).
- (JM) asked that the representative attend the BOS meetings more frequently.
- (DL) responded that one of them will try and attend once a month.
- Richard Hafey asked whether (DL) would be coming back to the Towns for more money.
- (DL) responded that hopefully they would not, would eat up what they had saved.
- Chris de. Marcken stated that they would have to pay for litigation and the costs to the Towns would rise.

Town Administrators Update

Recreation Signage

- Town Counsel has agreed the wording for the signs to be erected at the Recreational Fields.
- (FG) would like to see signs at both Grove Street and Center fields.

Wachusett Regional School District Budget

- (CB) presented a preliminary Paxton Assessment proposed by WRSD in a spreadsheet comparing this with the Board's recommended amount and the FY05, FY06 & FY07 actual assessments. The request being more than twice the Towns total projected revenue increase for FY08.
- (CB) provided information from the March 8 Budget Task Force meeting indicating that WRSD were considering the amount Holden had informed them that they could afford FY08, this being a 3.5% increase of RASA and Minimum Contribution.
- (JM) stated that he would not put the school budget on the warrant with an override.
- The next Regional Meeting is April 5, 2007 and this should be primarily to discuss the FY08 WRSD budget.
- BOS stated that the School Committee members should come before the BOS as they have done in the past.
- BOS & (CB) discussed the per pupil information provide by WRSD. (CB) indicated that figures came out as they did due to the leverage of 7,000 students at WRHS.
- (MQ) suggested that the BOS request the amount of RASA & MCAS scores be shown for the same towns.
- (JM) did not wish to know this information, just know that they cannot afford these numbers.
- (CB) stated that they need to look at what we can afford and provide WRSD with a number, look at increasing the Minimum Contribution and RASA by 3.5%. This would be an increase in approximately \$129,000.
- BOS agreed that they could not afford more than \$4.4 million.
- Discussed the inequity within the District due to Regional Agreement rather than DOE formula.
- (CB) suggested meeting on March 19, 2007 to discuss the FY08 Budget.
- Finance asked that the BOS meet with them on March 21, 2007, but (CB) and (FG) have conflicts on that night. March 20th was suggested as an alternative date to meet with Finance
- Future BOS meeting agreed as March 29, 2007, April 2, 2007, and April 17, 2007.

Correspondence

- Firefighters Association wishes to run a bingo. BOS confirmed that they are still supportive of this.
- Memo from Chief Desrosiers providing information on the recent District 7 radio response report indicating the Dispatcher Center scored 100%, this followed a request by the Chief to improve upon the previously unaccepted score.
- Letter of resignation from Mary Jenkins from the Council on Aging.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to accept resignation with regret.
- CMRPC request for permission to hold traffic count and provide up to three more sites where the Town would like traffic counts conducted.
- BOS requested that the Police Chief, DPW Superintendent and Master Planning Committee have an input into the additional areas to conduct these counts.

Public Session

- Edward Blanchard co-owner of Muir Farm requested that an article be placed on the ATM warrant to amend the Town of Paxton Zoning Bylaw by amending the Overlay District Map to include as part of the Senior Residential Development Overlay District.
- Wording for the article was provided, which will require a review by the BOS and a public hearing by the Planning Board.
- The parcel is 68 acres and 61 single units are proposed, 20% of which would be affordable housing.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to adjourn meeting at 9:30pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Riches, Administrative Assistant