

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 5, 2007

Members Present: John F. Malone, Chair
Fred Goodrich, Vice Chair (absent)
Michael T. Quinlivan, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

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

Paxton Public Safety Complex- Update- (Charlie Blanchard)

- 95% plans received.
- 100% expected November 21st.
- Power connection revised and to be finalized.
- Looking into overhead power needs on Pleasant Street and the best utilization of these poles.
- Owners Project Managers contract now signed by all parties.

Suomi Street – George Barkat

- George Barkat, Suomi Street resident thanked the Police Dept. and BOS for their actions; he has noticed changes on his street including reduced speed, police presence and a new sign.
- Chief Desrosiers addressed the problems he observed on Suomi Street as being highly active for runners, walkers and children on bicycles often present after sunset. Traffic study performed in June 2007 showed a volume of 6,800 vehicles over a six-day period, 95% fell into a speed range of 29mph, 4% were 29-36mph and 1% exceeded 36mph.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that he would support any program on public safety, and if needed he will borrow an electronic speed sign to try to educate drivers.
- George Barkat requested clarification of the survey that showed that 95% of vehicles traveled at 29mph as last meeting it was stated as 39mph. Chief Desrosiers explained that was an error on the part of a selectman.

Dispatch Appointment

- Chief Desrosiers recommended the appointment of Herbert Duggan as Full-Time Dispatcher.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to accept the appointment of Herbert Duggan. Unanimous.

Police Appointment

- Chief Desrosiers recommended the appointment of Forest Thorpe as Full Time Officer upon graduation from the Academy.
- **Motion** (MQ) seconded (JM) to appoint Forest Thorpe as Full Time Officer pending his completion of training and graduation from the Academy. Unanimous.

Correspondence

- Thank you note from resident for the assistance given by Chief Desrosiers and his Department.
- Letter from Mary Bogren outlining her concerns for students at Paxton Center School during polling hours.
- (CB) stated that he has spoken with the School Superintendent and the November 2008 Election would not be a problem as there will be a professional day, still looking into an alternate site.
- Letter from Auditor outlining FY07 audit progress.

Town Administrators Update

Bogren Agreement

- Agreement to use the Bogren's property for access during construction of the Public Safety Complex, not ready for signing at this time.

New Residents Web Page

- New page added to the Town's website to provide information to new residents in Town.

Paxton Housing Partnership

- (CB) provided a copy of the survey prepared by Housing Partners Inc. that would be used to determine the level of interest in Town for a Senior Housing Project. (CB) concerned that the question to determine this is conditional and could lead to yes answers from those who will not qualify.

Investment Policy

- A proposed Investment Policy for the Town established guideline to allow the Treasurer to comply with M.G.L. . The Treasurer has reviewed and approved this policy, looking for the BOS to approve prior to sending to the Finance Committee.

Local Inspector

- Building Inspector is recommending the appointment of Richard Travers as the Alternate Local Inspector (interim).
- **Motion** (MQ) seconded (JM) to approve the appointment of Richard Travers as the Alternate Local Inspector (interim). Unanimous.

Chapter 90 Accepted Roads

- (CB) requested a list of MassHighway C90 accepted roads, DPW Superintendent has identified road that have been accepted but did not appear on the list. Paperwork will be completed to include these streets.

Department Managers Meeting

- Minutes from the October 17th meeting were provided for the BOS.

Fire Department Steel Building

- (CB) has looked into costs of moving the steel building to the DPW site rather than dismantling for scrap. Estimates received to date raise questions as to whether this would be cost effective. Will provide a recommendation on receipt of additional estimates.

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

- (CB) has reviewed the options available under LUCA and recommend participation in Option 3.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to participate in Option 3. Unanimous.

Public Safety Complex Borrowing

- Rural Development has committed to \$2 million in borrowing to the Public Safety Complex on condition that they would seek the additional funding from uncommitted funds from other regions, most likely conventional borrowing. Legislation will be needed to approve borrowing beyond the 20 year statutory, Representative Spellane has been helping with this and wording will be needed for the next Special or Annual Town Meeting.

Other Business

- (CB) informed the BOS that the next Regional BOS meeting is provisionally set for December 6th.
- (CB) has left a message for the BOH to consider single stream recycling as part of their next RFP.
- Police Dept. is having problems with their phone system and may be looking at a repair bill of up to \$2000.

Recreation Commission Appointments

- Six people interested in being appointed James Brodin, Richard McGhee, Robert Pelczarski, Paul Riches, Katie Siemen and Stephanie Stratton.
- (JM) informed everyone that the BOS will make appointments until the next election and at that time everyone will have to run to be elected for whichever term they are appointed to.
- Questions were asked of each applicant as follows:
- (JM) why do you wish to be appointed to a commission that has been so controversial and in the spotlight?

- (JB) Look forward to the challenge, committed to cause for the kids in town.
- (PR) Volunteer time to improve programs. During the 12 years with PYS would like to improve upon the experience I have had with the Recreation Board.
- (RP) From experience with Worcester Schools, know that there is a facet to obtaining more help and money assistance.
- (SS) Feel I could help children as well as board, have a good skill of smoothing over issues.
- (KS) Willing to commit open minded – believe in open communication and a chance for a new start.
- (MQ) to (PR) not a citizen know that although an appointed position now, will be an elected position in May.
- (PR) have filed for citizenship and was informed it was a three month process, have a devotion to community.
- (JM) Will need to work with Eva, Candice and Craig involves budgeting and spending, which is already overspent.
- (SS) Set budget, some programs generate funds, some are self-funding, if a program does not fund itself then consider whether it should continue.
- (RP) Set limits utilize what we have and tap into those resources.
- (RM) Recreation has some good programs; continue integrity of programs, found that we do not have sufficient gym space, bring resources in.
- (JB) Recreation needs to work on facilities as a whole, Paxton Center Fields need work need to generate funds, look to PYS or Baseball.
- (JM) No full time employees – we need to deal with scheduling of fields, individual phone calls, time involved, what time commitment do you see?
- (JM) As much time as it takes.
- (RP) Not an issue.
- (PR) My work involves some travel, but always accessible via email or cell phone.
- (SS) Have two full days off a week.
- (KS) A stay at home mum, have free time.

- (JM) I commend the Recreation Commission, Grove Street fields are immaculate, what would you like to see work
- (PR) Happy to see kids enjoying themselves, healthy budget and meet goals.
- (SS) Open Space – implement some of their ideas.
- (KS) Enriching all other programs as well as incorporating COA.
- (RP) Like to see a pool back in Paxton.
- (RM) Better lighting for Center fields to attract people back into town.
- (JB) Agree, better use of Center fields.
- (MQ) Budget, capital planning long-term decisions may meet roadblocks with other committees, you may need to compromise,
- (PR) Set realistic goals short and long term.
- (JB) Agree with Paul; work in concert with PYS and Baseball for a common goal.
- (CB) Expressed dealing with youth sports – responsibility is maintenance, summer recreation program, overall role, last year received income of \$35,000, need to be evaluated.
- (JM) asked for any comments from the Recreation Director and Secretary.
- Candice Ross: We have a nice little group; don't want to see anyone come in with their own agendas.
- (JM) One big thing is that the budget is going to be tighter.
- (PR) Asked the BOS what is expected of them - to run this, what relationship will there be? Will you have us come in to your meetings?
- (JM) Will be here for you, prior Recreation Commission had more experience than us.
- (PR) What lessons did you learn from recent experience?
- (JM) something needed to happen, felt a decision needed to be made, so made it.
- (CB) Communication need open communication.
- BOS considered the applicants and made the following appointments:
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to appoint Stephanie Stratton to a 1-year term ending 2009.

Unanimous.

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to appoint Paul Riches to a 1-year term ending 2009.
Unanimous.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to appoint Katie Siemen to a 2-year term ending 2010.
Unanimous.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to appoint Robert Peliczarki to a 3-year term ending 2011.
Unanimous.
- (JM) asked if (JB) and (RM) were both on the Baseball Board.
- (RM) said he would step down from being appointed to the Recreation Commission in favor of (JB)
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to appoint James Brodin to a 3-year team. Unanimous.

Motion (JM) seconded MQ) to adjourn meeting at 8:45pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Administrative Assistant