

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 19, 2008

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

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

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

- BOS and Town Administrator took a tour of the DPW and Fire Department facilities, where the Fire Department equipment is temporary located.
- BOS and Town Administrator returned at 7:30pm.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) for (FG) to become Chairman of the BOS. Unanimous. All in Favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) for (MQ) to become Vice-Chairman of the BOS. Unanimous. All in Favor.**
- **Motion (MQ) seconded (FG) for (JM) to become Clerk of the BOS. Unanimous. All in Favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2008. Unanimous. All in Favor**

Public Safety Complex Update – Charles Blanchard

- Footings at DPW for Steel Building complete, concrete to be poured this week
- Road to Light Dept. will be relocated at the end of the week.
- Binder pavement on parking lot.
- PSC footings next week.
- On schedule.

Street Light Request –Camp St

- BOS have visited the Camp St area and felt that it was well lit for a quiet road and a further light was not necessary.

- Motion (FG) seconded (JM) not to have a further light installed at this time. Unanimous. All in favor.

Paxton Sports Center Inc. Change of Manager

- Motion (FG) seconded to approve the change in manager on the Paxton Sports Center Inc. liquor license to Peter Guterman. Unanimous. All in Favor.

Boy Scouts request to use Common

- Motion (MQ) seconded (JM) to allow the Boy Scouts to put up signs on the Common for one week to advertise the Pancake Breakfast on Memorial Day. Unanimous. All in Favor.

Chris Baehreche- Town Government Discussion

- Chris Baehreche requested that the work of the Government Study Committee continue. Mr. Baehreche mentioned the poorly attended Town Meeting and unopposed positions at the Town Election.

On the subject of the Town Meeting he felt that:

- There were several special interest groups
- Private meeting were going on.
- Several important motions were dealt with too late in the evening.
- Could have been a better run Town Meeting.

As regards the Town Administrator:

- Purpose to unburden the elected positions.
- People in Charge – good synopsis to decision makers.
- Town Administrator very important and a better and clear job description recommended by DLS.
- (CB) done an outstanding job.

Regarding the Government Study Committee:

- Felt that they were in disagreement.
- Never clear why BOS opposed the Act.
- Need to reappoint this committee and bring back the Act at a Special Town meeting.
- BOS felt that the current committee needed to be disbanded but possible a new committee should be appointed with a different make up.
- (FG) agreed that (CB) had done a significant job especially with the PSC. He felt that the timing was not right for the financial reorganization and that the vote was against it.
- (FG) on behalf of the BOS take under advisement.
- Robert Hall, stated that he would have liked to see the Act come before a STM and is concerned that when (CB) leaves the Town may go back to the way it was before.
- (FG) responded that in his opinion we need a town administrator and is concerned about the future.

Cemetery Commissioners Letter Distributed at Town Meeting

- (FG) felt that the letter distributed by Lois Breault –Melican, Cemetery Commission relating to the Johnson family at the ATM was despicable. (FG) had consulted with the Moderator on his views as to how this could be prevented. The Moderator suggested that all material for distribution should be submitted to the Moderator prior to the meeting and if necessary Town Counsel will be consulted.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) for discussion that all material wishing to be distributed at a Town Meeting should be passed to the Moderator two weeks prior to the meeting.**
- (MQ) concerned with free speech rules and would like the opinion of Town Counsel.
- (FG) motion is good but difficult to control, approach Town Counsel and Attorney General for advice.

(JM) friendly amendment to include once reviewed by Town Counsel on how to approach this matter. Motion (JM) seconded (FG) Unanimous All in Favor.

- (MQ) the unsigned letter is slander against the Johnson's.
- Melinda Johnson stated that she would not want any citizen at a town meeting to be subject to this type of slander and untruth.
- All BOS members agreed that the letter was an embarrassment to the Town and that Ms. Melican should write a written apology to the Johnson, BOS. Moderator and Town Meeting.
- (JM) stated that some thought should be given to a resignation; this is not how an official should act.
- (FG) would like to contact Town Counsel and see what can be done, he will then write a letter to Ms. Melican.
- (JM) had asked the Town Administrator to contact the Ethics Commission but their response was that it did not fall under their office.
- (JM) would like to see this subject on the next meeting agenda.

Cemetery Commissioner Resignation

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) that Melinda Johnson reconsider her resignation from the Cemetery Commission. Unanimous. All in Favor**
- Melinda Johnson stated that she has submitted the letter prior to the Town Meeting and did not want to reconsider.
- (CB) pointed out that the letter was filed with the Town Clerk and is an official resignation.

- (JM) withdrew his motion as it was nil and void.

Town Administrators Update- Charlie Blanchard

American Disabilities Act

- Rural Development has requested the Town update the Section 504 Self Evaluation. This was done and sent to them on May 15th.

Surplus Equipment

- A firefighter has offered to move the two safes in the Town Hall basement and return the proceeds to the town.

Motion (FG) seconded (JM) to declare the two unused safes as surplus equipment.

Unanimous. All in Favor

Acadia Publishing Company

- A representative from the publishing company dropped off a copy of a new book "Paxton Then and Now" by Katherine and Laura Taronas. These can be sold as fundraisers.
- BOS agreed that these are ideal for the Friends of the Richards Memorial Library.

Dispatch Appointment

- Chief Desrosiers is requesting the appointment of Joseph Andrasik as a Part-Time Dispatcher at a starting rate of \$11.73 per hour.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to accept the appointment of Joseph Andrasik.**
Unanimous. All in Favor.

Conservation Appointment

- Chris Keenan requesting the appointment of Daniel Gehnrich to the Commission.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) for discussion.**
- (FG) stated that Mr. Gehnrich has had wetland problems in the past and would hope that he would stand aside and not influence any action.
- (JM) would expect Mr. Gehnrich to recuse himself
- **Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to accept the appointment. Unanimous. All in Favor.**

Town Accountant

- Town Accountant has indicated that due to family problems, she will only be able to be at the Town Hall every other Friday 2:00 to 4:00pm.
- (FG) stated that they would intend to reappoint the Town Accountant next month with other appointments.

Other Business

Assessors

- (CB) stated that the Assessor wanted to let everyone know that she has Cathy Stanley currently in Town visiting properties, as part of the work of the Assessor.

Town Service Coordinator

- (FG) asked how the TSC was coping without her assistants. (CB) responded that the Pl. Bd. position has been advertised and that the TSC is receiving some help from Town Hall employees.

Memorial Day

- (FG) stated that there would be a full program lasting 1½ hour. Parade starts at 10am and the American Legion will have an open house.

Access Road

- (JM) would like to have the meeting to walk the site and deal with the open position on the Recreation Commission at the next meeting.

Town Warrants

- (JM) has received questions from the last Town Meeting and would like to see voters provided with information relating to Town Meeting procedures, possibly could go our with the warrant.

Correspondence

- Letter of Resignation from Alice Livdahl from the Town Govt. Study Committee.
- June Herron does not wish to be reappointed to the Board of Registrars
- James Bradbury does not wish to be reappointed to the ZBA.
- Melinda Johnson resignation from the Cemetery Commission

- (JM) would like to act on this next week

Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to adjourn meeting at 9:00pm. Unanimous. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant