

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Budget Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 1, 2010

Members Present: Fred Goodrich, Chair,
Peter Bogren, Jr.,
Bill Trotta, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

(FG) mentioned that he gave copies of the Governor's House 2 Budget showing local aid to Paxton, Wachusett and Bay Path to the other members of the Board.

Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent, presented his requested FY11 budget, the largest increase of which is the request to restore Type I Blacktop to \$150,000. In addition, he presented the board with the Road Program in which he rated all roads in Paxton as Class 1, 2 or 3 (depending on their level of service) with assigned ratings on a scale of 0 to 10, which 10 being excellent condition.

(MP) also presented a list of five roads in the order of priority for repair. If the \$150,000 blacktop request stays in the budget, and our Chapter 90 money remains at the level of previous years, three of these roads – Phase III Marshall Street, Keep Avenue and Crocker Hill / Mountview Drive will be able to be done this year.

(FG) stated that many towns have had to eliminate their blacktop line item. (BT) mentioned that while this work is important we don't have much money in the budget. (PB) pointed to the shortfall we are currently facing with the requested budgets and the projected Wachusett increase.

(FG) asked how the DPW is functioning being one person down – (MP) said they were dealing with it but it did create a strain on the department.

John Beshard and Matt Chase of VHB Engineers came in to discuss what the Board was looking for in a study of the Routes 122, 31 and 56 conversion on the common, as well as increased traffic at the Maple and Grove Street intersection and the Grove Street and Holden Road intersection due to the growth of Anna Maria College and other factors. Based on the board's input, VHB will come back with a proposal in the next few weeks.

Christian de Marcken came in to discuss his concern about the recent increase in the property tax and also a complaint about police officers and firemen from other communities speeding through town. He said he would present the plate numbers of violator to the Board for further action.

(FG) said that only he and one other person attended the meeting last week to choose a new municipal representative for the upcoming six Wachusett negotiations that will take place this year. They will have to set up another meeting to choose a representative.

(FG) mentioned that the Paxton Housing Partnership Committee received a \$15,000 grant to allow Housing Partners, Inc. to review and evaluate proposals for the Senior Affordable Housing Project on the Klingele property, which moves the project closer to completion.

(FG) then reviewed the major budgets and listed his questions and concerns about several budgets, including the Town Clerk's requested budget. He stated that the Board needs to have a discussion as to what the value of this position really is, and asked the other Board members to carefully review the Town Clerk's budget before she comes in to the board to discuss them.

(FG) also listed several questions on line items in the Public Property, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Public Buildings and Library which he will bring up when these budgets are discussed with the department heads.

Motion (PB) seconded (WT) to adjourn meeting at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles T. Blanchard
Town Administrator