

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 30, 2010

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

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

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

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (WT) seconded (FG) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2010. Unanimous all in favor.**

Gina Dibaro, State Representative Candidate

- Provided the BOS with a flyer of her background and said she would be a voice in Boston for Paxton. Her concerns included: funding for schools, federal funding for infrastructure, revenue for towns and public safety.

Bottle & Can Drive Request

- Request made by St. Columba Church to hold a bottle & can drive on the Common on September 11, 2010. (WT) felt that with the significance of this date, not a good time to hold this event. BOS recommend requesting this date is changed to September 18th.
- **Motion (FG) seconded (WT) to allow bottle & can drive on September 18th. Unanimous all in favor.**

Definitive Subdivision Plan for Camile Circle

- BOS reviewed the Definitive Subdivision Plan and felt that the water issues and safety issues would be addressed by the Water Board and Fire Inspector respectively.

Lucile DiLeo – Tax Taking

- Ms. DiLeo a Marshall St resident, recently became aware of a property at 250 Marshall St, with substantial real estate taxes outstanding of \$54,000. Ms. DiLeo provided the BOS with research that she had done on the owner of this property that showed that the person owned and sold property in Sandwich, where she also owed outstanding taxes. This person no longer resident at 250 Marshall St. but someone is lives there.
- Ms. DiLeo felt that the Town should either assign the right of these properties with large outstanding tax arrears or sell them at public auction.
- Deirdre Malone, Tax Collector, responded that she had no idea who was living at this

address and did not have a forwarding address for the owner. Ms. DiLeo, provided the Tax Collector with the contact information for the owner.

- Tax Collector stated that there should be a process for everyone who owes taxes not just this particular person. Currently \$283,912 taxes outstanding taxes on the books, 1990 to 2009.
- (FG) stated that the Collector should review tax takings and get back to the BOS.
- Ms. DiLeo, stated that she was willing to donate her time to do searches on properties with large outstanding tax arrears on behalf of the Town.
- (CB) added that from the amount of outstanding taxes, with some years only having insignificant amounts, the Tax Collector has done her job at collecting these.

Government Organization - Town Administrators Position and Town Hall Elected Officials

- (FG) was asked for his opinion on this and responded that the Town Clerk, Town Collector and Treasurer should be appointed. In 2006 & 2007 he was not prepared to turn over the financial responsibilities to the Town Administrator.
- (PB) recommended that the BOS form a list of concerns and come forward with a list and then organize.
- (FG) need to look at our organization at our next meeting on September 13th. BOS should review each position and give our concerns and recommendations for each position.
- Jack Malone, ex Selectman, stated that when the study was done, there were different opinions for elected verses appointed; it came before the Town Meeting and was shot down, but there is no reason why the Town can't have elected positions under the Town Administrator. The BOS had a problem letting go of the reins to the Town Administrator, he asked what was different now. We appointed Town Administrator and he hasn't been allowed to do his job.
- (FG) feel we are closer now to doing that, than we were, BOS are the policy makers through the Town Administrator.
- (WT) added that we need a professional team, instead of electing without experience, looking to replace with professional people when elected officials retire.
- (CB) responded that it is an understatement that the Town Administrator hasn't been allowed to do his job, the job description has the powers and duties well set out, and that he has followed through on these. (CB) concern is that if the BOS change, new BOS may feel that the Town Administrator, may not need to be responsible for say the budget and there would be no way to stop that. A charter is needed in place for next person in the Town Administrators position.

Worcester Water

- (FG) concerned with the land clearing in Town near the reservoirs, should be compensation for the Town.

- Jack Malone, Water Commissioner stated that a water treatment plant and are currently collecting required data for DEP. The Board has applied for a State Revolving Fund Grant. Have had discussions with Worcester, but nothing negotiated.
- (FG) need to discuss with Worcester their value of the land verses our value.
- (JM) suggested a committee to work on PILOT.

Relocation of Records to 10 West Street

- Deirdre Malone, Tax Collector state that there were items in the Records Building that could be destroyed and that she was going to take care of it.
- (CB) stated that the records from the Town Hall basement would be relocated to the lower level of 10 West Street this fall with the help of the DPW, at a later date the TSC records would be put into a better order of street address rather than permit number.

Mass Highways Recommendations for the Common

- (CB) contacted Arthur Frost, Mass Highway who informed him that he had looked at all the data and felt that anything done to the roads around the Common would create a need to do more things. Would need more studies to change the signals and closing Richards Avenue would create a need for reorientation of the Common. Mass Highway cannot do anything else at this point.

Emergency Management Update

Charles Bolster, Emergency Manager

- Charlie Bolster stated that he has 6 solid members of the CERT team and 3 on the outskirts. 17 people attended the Red Cross Shelter Training in July.
- Charles Bolster will be running First Aid Training with the American Heart Association.
- Charles Bolster met with BOH and they will move all the equipment that has been obtained through grants to the Public Safety Complex. Still looking for donations of equipment.
- Charles Bolster met with COA – looking for a “cooling station” that has a generator. COA Director had mentioned to him that the Paxton Center School Generator was pulling fumes into the building. This has been referred to Wachusett.
- Discussed the R911, Charlie Bolster stated that he discussed this with the Police Chief and concurred that it should only be used for emergencies.
- Charles Bolster stated that a resident on Burtenmar had a concern with the tree clearing that had taken place by Worcester next to his property could catch fire with the dry spell that we have had and asked whether there should be a buffer zone.
- (WT) recommended that the Emergency Manager should meet with the Town Administrator and write to the City of Worcester regarding the concern.

Town Administrators Update

Municipal Relief Act

- Recently enacted Municipal Relief Act provided for postponement in scheduled revaluation

dates. Paxton's FY13 requirement has been postponed to FY14.

December 2008 Ice Storm

- The State has released an additional million dollars that was held back on the December 2008 Ice Storm. Reimburse. Our share of which is \$14,173.

Part-Time Dispatchers

- Interviews for the Part Time Dispatchers positions have been completed and the recommended action is to appoint Kimberly Fontaine and John Annunziata.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to accept the appointment of Kimberly Fontaine and John Annunziata as part-time Dispatchers subject to our standard probationary period with a starting pay of \$12.80 per hour. Unanimous all in favor.**

Paxton Housing Partnership

- The pre-proposal meeting and site visit for the PHP Senior Housing RFP was held on August 25th and was attended by representatives from 3 architectural firms, 1 investment company and 1 developer. Proposals are due September 22, 2010.

Water Commission

- The Water Commission is applying for the State Revolving Fund for the proposed filtration plant for Asnebumskit Reservoir, if approved it would make the project more economically feasible in the event the Town chooses to proceed with this project.

Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance

- The Department of Education has issued a revised summary of Chapter 70 funding for Wachusett based on the additional federal funds received through the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act.
- The net increase from the June State Aid figure that was a combination of Chapter 70 and State Fiscal Stabilization Fund is \$1,064,386 for FY11 This is an increase of \$179,250 (\$25 per student) from the FY10 Combined State Aid. They will also receive \$279,741 from the "Race to the Top " Federal funding.

Correspondence

- Letter from Commonwealth of Mass Dept. of Veterans' Services – New VS5/VS –6 Certification Form, requires for an individual to be appointed to review and certify the expenditures made by the VSO.
- **Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to appoint the Town Administrator. Unanimous all in favor.**

Motion (WT) seconded (PB) to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Administrative Assistant

Documents Filed with Minutes:

Gina Dibaró – document

St Columba request

Other Documents Filed in BOS Office:

Town Administrators Update

Tax Title Documents (under Tax Collector)

Sub Division Definition Plan - Camille Circle

Commonwealth of Mass Dept. of Veterans' Services – Veterans' Agent