

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2011

Members Present: Peter Bogren, Jr., Vice Chairman
John F. Malone, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Christopher Ross

- DPW Superintendant, Michael Putnam presented Mr. Christopher Ross as the new Heavy Equipment Operator for the DPW Department. Mr. Ross comes to us with twenty years of experience. Mr. Ross resides in Rutland with his family, and is looking for a job closer to home with a more set schedule. Mr. Ross exceeds our requested qualifications for this position and I feel he will be a good addition to the department. **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the recommendation of the DPW Superintendant to hire Christopher Ross as the new Heavy Equipment Operator for the Town of Paxton. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Paxton Police Department Appointments

- Lieutenant Mark Savasta presented Detective Jason Silvestri to be appointed as a Sergeant to the Paxton Police Department. **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the appointment of Detective Jason Silvestri to Sergeant for the Paxton Police Department. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- Lieutenant Savasta also presented Guy Bibeau to fill the remaining full time Police Officer position for the Town of Paxton. **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the appointment of Guy Bibeau as a full time Police Officer for the Paxton Police Department. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **(PB)** I have the upmost trust in Chief Desrosiers recommendations.
- **(JM)** I just have to say that we have the best police force in central MA. This is a group of great and trustworthy people.

CMRPC HUD Grant

- (PB) I have no objection to supporting the application but I do question who will be the person that will attend the one-hour a week commitment that they are asking for? (CR) replied that Christian Baehrecke is our representative for CMRPC, and that perhaps he would be able to take this on. **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to provide support to CMRPC for the HUD Grant Application for the Regional Sustainability Planning. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Laptop Computers and Cell phone

- Pass over till next meeting.

New hire credentials

- Pass over till next meeting.

Traffic signals

- (CR) called Mass Highway and we are on the list to be done. I will call Bill and inform him of such.

Emergency Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the Emergency Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2011. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- Pass over till next meeting

Muir Farm Property

- Holly and Jim Robert from the Conservation Commission were present to discuss the possibility of the Conservation Commission donating funds to assist the town in acquiring the Muir Farm property along with GWLT and the City of Worcester. Holly Robert expressed that the Conservation Commission would be willing to support what is needed in order to preserve that piece of land.
(PB) The Mayor has pledged the cities support for this, but nothing has been confirmed yet. How much would the Conservation Commission be able to contribute? Holly Robert stated that the Conservation Commission has \$43,000 available with out restrictions, but we would want to have a public hearing on this before we decided to spend these funds. Do we know where these funds came from?
(CR) in speaking to the Town Accountant this fund has been accruing for some time, but we are not sure where it originated.
(PB) Everything is on hold at the moment. The idea is to preserve that piece of land. It is also in Worcester's best interest to obtain this piece of land.

(JM) This is just to keep you informed. GWLT has a deposit on it, and the development side is not moving forward. We are just trying to get our ducks in a row at this point in time.

Holly Robert expressed that it would be helpful to go back and look into where this fund originated from, and see if we need authorization to spend it.

Jim Robert perhaps a mailing should go out to the abutters to inform them of what is going on and to get some support for the project.

Holly Robert expressed that this would also be a great recreational area for the town as well.

Roberta Brien

- Roberta Brien is the Chairperson for the Zoning Board of Appeals. She has presented the Board of Selectmen with a disclosure of financial interest because the Building Inspector has been contacted by a resident and asked to determine if the horses located at 313 Richards Ave are in compliance with the zoning bylaws. Dependent upon the building inspectors determination the issue could come before the zoning board of appeals for discussion and or action. Being the Chairperson as well as a direct abutter to 313 Richards Ave and a neighbor to the party who contacted the building inspector. I would like to present at the meeting but will recuse myself from any vote that may be taken by the board.
- **(PB)** At that point the Vice Chairperson will take over the meeting,
- Roberta Brien noted that she would maintain open lines of communication with the Ethic Commission to make sure that she is not in violation of any regulations.
- **(JM)** I would like Carol to ask Town Council if this process would be ok.
- Robert Brien expressed that she would like to be present just for an educational purpose, because the information that is presented by the building inspector could be helpful in future situations.
- **(JM)** I understand your situation, but I just want to verify that it is ok for you stay in the room during discussions.
- **(PB)** We should wait for assurance from Carol before we vote on this issue.
- **(CR)** asked Roberta to obtain a letter from the Ethics Commission to clarify this situation.

Town Administrators update

1. As you are aware following a visit from Congressman McGovern we wrote requesting a visit from Preservation Massachusetts. Below is an email I received for Kathleen Polanowicz, District Director advising at this time no one is available to visit but suggested a conference call. Please advise how you wish me to respond on your behalf.
(PB) We will wait till they are available to meet.
2. Peter Dawson is in the latter stages of corresponding with the attorneys representing JK Scanlan to finalize the Senior Residential Development ground rent agreement. Once the final version is available the Board will be provided a red line copy for review and signing.

Selectmen's Open Meeting Night

- This coming Thursday, September 15th at 7pm Peter Bogren will be available at the Senior Center for any town resident that would like to drop in with any question or concerns that they have with what is going on in town.
- Selectmen Jack Malone will host next months meeting.

Electric sign

- **(PB)** Where is the electric sign?
- **(CR)** It is coming back. The DPW Department will be using it to announce the hydrant flushing.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:00pm

Adjourned Meeting at 7:36pm, Unanimous all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant

Documents filed with Meeting Minutes:

None

Documents from the Meeting:

Town Administrator's Update – File in Town Administrator's Update Folder

DPW new hire Christopher Ross – Filed in BOS office

Appointment of Patrolman and Sergeant – Filed in police folder in BOS office

HUD Grant Application – Filed in BOS office

ZBA disclosure – Filed in BOS office