



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
(508) 754-7638 – phone (508) 797-0966 – fax
dparsons@townofpaxton.net

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 4, 2012

Meeting Location: John Bauer Senior Center 17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Members Present: Peter Bogren, Jr., Chairman
John F. Malone, Vice Chair
Frederick G. Goodrich, Clerk

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

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

Appoint Dispatcher Cody Thomasian

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to appoint Cody Thomasian as a part time dispatcher. Unanimous, all in favor.**

American Legion change of Manager

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the application for the change of manager for the American Legion from Thomas Savage to Timothy Hackett. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Clerk

- Town Clerk presented the Board of Selectmen with the Election Warrant for the vote to be held on June 26, 2012. Warrant was accepted and signed by all three members.
- The Town Clerk read a prepared letter to the Board for reconsideration of her previously denied transfer request. In the letter she stated that the \$950.00 transfer does not change the overall budget. \$278 was spent on six sets of poles and signs for the holding bases. The \$278 will come from the election budget. Each year I have returned funds, and I ask you to reconsider my transfer.
- (JM) \$800.00 order that you recently had?
- Susan Stoned responded that was for ballots.
- (JM) I apologize.
- Susan Stone stated that I just wanted to explain.

- (JM) If I see something without enough information I question it. I may have missed it and I apologize.
- (FG) Do you have enough in your account?
- Susan Stone, yes I would like to transfer from Purchase Services to Supplies.
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the transfer of \$950, from the Town Clerk Purchase Services account to the Town Clerk Supplies account. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Liaison Assignments

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the liaison assignments as listed below. Unanimous, all in favor.**

<u>Peter Bogren. Jr.</u>	<u>John F. Malone</u>	<u>Frederick G. Goodrich</u>
<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>	<u>Clerk</u>
Finance Committee	Council on Aging	Master Plan Implementation Committee
Central Mass Regional Planning	Historic District Commission	Paxton Center School Council
Wachusett Regional School District	Conservation Commission	Fire Department
Building Inspector	Board of Health	Assessors
Communication & Cable Committee	Cemetery Commission	Capital Improvement Committee
Police Department	Town Hall Renovation Committee	Planning Board
Hazardous Waste	Water Board	Paxton Housing Partnership Committee
Representative & Senators	Wiring Inspector	Recreation Commission
Bylaw Committee (When Appointed)	Library	Zoning Board of Appeals
Town Hall Personnel	Historical Commission	
Town Counsel	Light Department	
Emergency Manager	Highway Department	
	Anna Maria College	

Approve April licenses

- **Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to approve the April licenses as follows. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Dunkin Donuts	Weekday Soft Drinks
Robinson Greenhouses	Nursery Stock & Florist
Howe's Farm Stand	Nursery Stock & Florist
Pleasant View Nursery	Nursery Stock & Florist
Paxton Sports Center	Weekday Soft Drinks
Paxton Marketplace	Weekday Soft Drinks

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Revised Regular Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2012 with the noted correction of the meeting location. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to approve the Meeting Minutes prior to Town Meeting from May 21, 2012. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Robert Clark & Michael Hannon

- Mr. Hannon spoke that Mr. Clark is looking to set up a 1 megawatt solar farm on his land on Pleasant Street. He is looking to bring 3 phases up to the site. They have spoken to Mr. DeStasi and he suggested that they come before the board. The \$3 million solar farm, which would sell electricity to the light department, would be located on five acres of land. We are looking for two things at this time. One to see if the board is receptive to something like this at this point in time and two would be to begin a discussion on what type of tax structure would be used.
- (JM) What would the rate be?
- Mr. Hannon said in talking to Mr. DeStasi, they thought about 6 cents per hour.
- (JM) Mr. Clark are you still looking at building the houses?
- Mr. Clark stated maybe 1 or 2.
- (JM) Have you seen the Conservation Commission or Planning Board?
- Mr. Hannon stated that contingent upon this meeting they will then approach the other boards as necessary.
- (JM) Is there any government assistance for this?
- Mr. Hannon replied that no, but there is a 30% tax credit. The state offers grants but then you cannot sell the credits.
- (FG) This seems feasible, and I would opt towards a PILOT program. This has been about the 4th or 5th change and I would like to see something on paper.
- (JM) Are you going to build on the two ANR lots?
- Mr. Clark replied yes.
- (JM) Anything in the dump area?
- Mr. Clark replied no.
- (FG) Did the Paxton Light Department have any concerns?
- Mr. Hannon said no there were not. They felt the town could handle it.

- (JM) I agree with Fred and I would like to get more information from the Light Department and the other Town Boards.
- Mr. Hannon agreed that yes, this is just preliminary, and we will start gathering information if the interest is there. We will put together the cost to install a three phase and present it to you.
- (JM) Does this have anything to do with the cost of the piping to the development?
- Mr. Clark replied that yes, there is no sense in doing it if it is going to lose money.
- (JM) expressed that at this point in time the town is sticking with ductal piping and does not want to go to plastic.
- (PB) suggested that we close the discussion between the Water Board and Mr. Clark and stated that at this point we will wait for your response on the solar farm.

Trash fee for 9 Shanandoah Drive

- **Motion (PB) seconded (FG) to waive the trash fee for the property located at 9 Shanandoah Drive. (PB) Voted in favor. (FG) Voted in favor. (JM) Voted against.**

End of year transfers

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to approve the following end of year transfers. Unanimous, all in favor.**

<u>Account transferred to</u>	<u>Account transferred from</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0100-1910-5208-0000	0100-1910-5207-0000	2,000.00
0100-1910-5208-0000	0100-1913-5200-0000	1,000.00
0100-1151-5200-0000	0100-1915-5814-0000	2,000.00
0100-1295-5200-0000	0100-1295-5700-0000	1,000.00
0100-1295-5200-0000	0100-1295-5400-0000	250.00

Annual Appointments

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JM) to accept the new appointments for FY2013 per attached list as written. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (PB) Noted current vacancies for anyone interested.
- (FG) I'm not sure that you want to do that cart blanch. I think we need to have a discussion on the Fire Chief.
- (PB) Let's go ahead with the discussion.
- (FG) One of the things that concerns me and it may get rectified is the tendency to spend in demand regardless of what the Board of Selectmen have to say. In some degree I think it borders on disrespect for some of us that sit on this board. I don't know if the Board has heard as often as I that all we have to do is wait for the board to change and we will get what we need. I bring it up as a concern, that these people do not run the town. The Board of Selectmen as elected officials run the town.

- (PB) Can you site a specific example? Is there something that he has spent money on against the wishes of the board?
- (FG) No he proposes spending money, and it's stopped by Capital.
- (CR) Isn't that the job of the department head to provide the Capital Plan? That's not going against the Board of Selectmen.
- (FB) The Capital Committee is appointed by and reports to the Board of Selectmen, and therefor are advisors to them, that doesn't mean that we have to receive millions of dollars as requested from that one department. It bothers me that there is not a control there. Secondly, in regards to the meetings that were held a few weeks ago the Chief got into with the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen at that time, The challenge being, who do you work for, I don't work for you, you work for me, that kind of thing needs to stop.
- (CR) I think we should have Jay be present.
- (JM) I feel that the Board of Selectmen were as much at fault, if there was fault, as the Fire Chief, and to ask you a direct question Mr. Goodrich you had mentioned that the Fire Chief had said that all we have to do is:
- (FG) All we have to do is wait until there is a change in the board and we can get whatever we need.
- (JM) Is that something you heard or is that something that is here say?
- (FG) That is something I heard several times.
- (JM) Did you hear it directly from the Fire Chief?
- (FG) Yes.
- (PB) So he put in a request and said that if you're not going to give it to me then I will just wait until the board changes and I'll get it.
- (FG) Yes
- (CR) And he said that directly to you Fred?
- (FG) Directly to the committee and directly to me.
- (JM) Mr. Chairman if this is so, then I feel that we need to have the committee and the Chief come in front of the Board, and find out what is going on.
- (JM) I have never heard in all my years on the Select Board either the fire or police chief say that they will get what they want, such as the school does when they say all they have to do is make some phone calls and they will get what they want at the town meeting.
- (PB) Are we in any way saying that our Fire Chief has done something that has gone out of the proper channels to purchase items for the Fire Department?
- (FG) No I would not say that. Nor have I said that he has done a poor job as the Fire Chief.
- (PB) So is the concern that the Capital requests are exorbitant in your opinion?
- (FG) I think they were made when they were not necessary and exorbitant.
- (JM) To bring this out as a point to not reappoint the Fire Chief. Where does that warrant not appointing him? I mean Jay Conte is and has been one of the best Fire Chief's that we have ever had. You basically have a full time Chief for part time pay, and you can't ask for a better trained Fire Department, and he has been professional with me right along. To say whether we want to reappoint him on this discussion of whether he is exorbitant with Capital projects.
- (FG) It's not just Capital but look at his budget as well.
- (JM) Request a brief recess.
- (FG) The question was asked of Carol why the Council on Aging Director was not on the list of reappointments.

- (CR) I have been doing this for ten years at it has never been on here.
- Mr. Malone returned and Mr. Goodrich continued the budget discussion.
- (FG) In there budget they are paid for every meeting that they attend and they are paid an incentive for any training that they attend. We do more training than any other Fire Department around. It's good, but is it necessary?
- (JM) Then I think that if it is the opinion of the board that there is too much training in the budget then we should be addressing that issue and not capital.
- (PB) If that becomes the opinion of the board then we can cut that part of the budget, but it still in my opinion doesn't take us to the point about the reappointment. He doesn't exceed his budget to the best of my knowledge, so he is working with an approved number from this board, Finance and the town's people, and I don't see where he has stepped outside the parameters that we have given him. As far as requests he can request and should request the finest equipment, and it's up to us to decide whether or not to give it to him. As far as how he has spoken to Board members in particular, especially in an open meeting if there is a concern that we have about his manor or tone that is certainly something that we can discuss, but is that grounds for not reappointing him?
- (FG) Probably not, but the point has been made.
- (PB) Any further discuss about the motion that has been put forward and seconded? Hearing none. All those in favor signify by saying Aye. All agreed.

Town Administrators update

1. The Cable Committee would like to use Michael Ridinger as a consultant to work through the process of the renewal of the cable contract. The committee is familiar with the work of Mr. Ridinger and believes he will expedite the process so that it runs smoothly and meets the September 2013 deadline for renewal. The total fee that we have negotiated is \$3,200 and we ask that you please give permission for us to move forward with this consultant.
 - (FG) This was done by the Town Administrator in the past, so why do we need a consultant?
 - (CR) We need someone to accelerate the process and that is knowledgeable to meet the target of September 2013. Any cost will come out of the cable account.
 - (JM) Similar to PHP.
 - (CR) Yes, and Charlie never did this, because it is a ten year contract.
 - **Motion (JM) seconded (PB) to use Mr. Ridinger as a consultant for the renewal of the cable contract. Unanimous, all in favor.**
2. Following the vote at the May 7, 2012 Town Meeting Mike Putnam DPW Superintendent has secured a 2012 Ford F550 Dump Sander & Plow Frame from Minuteman Trucks Inc, for \$74,428. The vehicle meets the specifications required by the Superintendent with the exception of the color (white). This vendor is on the State Bid list; so no formal bid process was necessary.
 - (FG) Mike did a great job.

3. The snack shack and bandstand are on schedule.
 - (FG) AMC made a donation of equipment.

Other business

- (JM) In regards to the department budget. Finance has proposed more cuts pending the outcome of the vote.
- (PB) We are looking at \$181,000
- (CR) No the \$140,000.
- (PB) The \$140,000 is a more realist number.
- (FG) You have to watch the trend and the way this is leading we will have no town and only a school.
- (PB) You are correct, because over the next 5 years we cannot sustain the school budget the way it is going.
- (FG) The other thing we need to consider is that we need to put more into the Stabilization fund, and we are eating away at what we have.
- (PB) Yes, even the Superintendent sees that and knows that we are using all our savings.
- (JM) We are both seeing the hit, but not taking it equally.
- (PB) The subcommittee for the WRSD has not yet met. We are all sick of this dance and at least they are trying something with this committee. Some of the things we need to look at are per child numbers.
- (FG) Where you make comparisons is critical.

Correspondences

- (PB) Letter from May 8th commending a Paxton Police Officer for going above and beyond to assist a child exiting a school bus.

Press

- Richard Hafey from the Telegram & Gazette asked for clarification. Fred, did you ask to not reappoint the Fire Chief?
- (FG) No.
- Mr. Hafey. Will you speak to the Chief?
- (PB) Yes we will.

Closing

- (JM) Thank you to the Cable Committee for all of their recent efforts.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday June 18, 2012, at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:30pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons, Administrative Assistant

Documents filed with Meeting Minutes:

Agenda

Attendance list

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Town Administrators Update

Notes from Town Clerk

Peter Bogren, Jr.
Chairman

John F. Malone
Vice Chairman

Frederick G. Goodrich
Clerk