

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2005

Members Present: Michael Quinlivan, Vice Chair
John F. Malone, Clerk, Frederick Goodrich, (absent)

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Wachusett School Budget Discussion

- After expressing concern that the Board was being asked to respond only to a “Straw vote” it was decided not to respond to this.
Motion (MQ) seconded (JM) to continue to support the budget approved at the August 9, 2005, STM. Unanimous
- (CB) said some of the towns were considering holding a STM on October 11 to address the new WRSD budget if new assessment letters are received this week. He also mentioned the capital expenditure request approved by the BOS at their August 29th meeting should be taken up at that meeting if it was approved by the Capital Planning Committee. This was taken under advisement.

Minutes

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2005. Unanimous.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2005. Unanimous.

One Day Liquor License

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to grant a one day liquor license to the Paxton Congregational Church for their Auction on November 5. Unanimous.

Correspondence

- Letter from residents of Cutler Road requesting the BOS consider the abandonment of a spur of Cutler Road that has not been paved or used. (JM) requested that comments from the Planning Board be obtained before the BOS invited the residents in to discuss this issue.
- Friends of Richards Library requested a new permit to hold a Chinese Auction during the Book Fair on October 8. **Motion** (MQ) seconded (JM) to grant permit as requested. Unanimous
- Monthly reports from DPW and Dispatch were reviewed.

Budget Process

- (CB) gave BOS a new copy of the budget proposal the BOS had seen in his August 12th Update, and said he presented the same proposal to the Finance Committee at their September 7th meeting which they took under advisement after one of their members spoke against any changes to the current process.

- (CB) told BOS he had received some comments from (FG) suggesting modifications to the proposed budget process including holding off on getting the full budget to the Finance Committee until March 1st.
- (JM) said he was happy that this proposal doesn't step on anyone's toes, and thought it would be a good idea to adopt it noting it could always be changed or tweaked if something else could work better.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to support the budget process outlined in the FY 07 Budget Process memo dated September 9, 2005. Unanimous

Tax Classification Public Hearing

- Public hearing was opened at 7:33pm to discuss the FY 06 Tax Classification. J. Stone presented the figures for a Factor "1" versus Chapter 797 Tax Formula as well as the discounts associated with Open Space, a Residential Exemption and Small Commercial.
- **Motion** (MQ) seconded (JM) for choosing a Factor of "1". Unanimous
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) for no open space discount. Unanimous
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) for no residential exemption. Unanimous
- **Motion** (MQ) seconded (JM) for no small commercial exemption. Unanimous

False Alarm Notice Complaint

- Mr. and Mrs. Teran expressed their concern that the false alarm charge was so high, with the second offense costing \$300. After the actual steps in the bylaw were explained to them, they withdrew their complaint.

Bob Barrett, Emergency Planning Director

- (BB) reported that the Town's Emergency Plan has been fully approved. (CB) said this was a major achievement since most towns only gain conditional approval in this time frame. (BB) also reported that he has met with Anna Maria College regarding setting up an emergency shelter there and it is an ideal site since they have emergency generators that can not only heat the area but allow for cooking. He is scheduled to meet with the PCS principal to review that site for an emergency shelter as well.
- (JM) asked about regional shelters and (BB) replied there is no specific town plan for a regional shelter but that mutual aid agreements exist. (JM) asked about the tabletop disaster training session, (BB) replied he is planning to hold one in the fall.
- (JM) requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Emergency Planning Director for his efforts and to acknowledge the cooperation of the various departments and committees as well.

Town Administrator's Update

Sewer Feasibility Study

- (CB) discussed the results of a sewer feasibility study for the area from Asnebumskit Road to the Worcester Town line. The BOS expressed support for taking this to the next step of finding out the interest of residents in this area for sewers.

Paxton Center School Windows

- (CB) reported that the project will be rebid with a bid opening on Wednesday, September 28th. He reminded the BOS that we will have 30 days to enter into a contract and that the Town Accountant

will have to certify that funds to complete the project are available before we can do this.

Website

- (CB) said the website is on track to go public by October 1st, and that on line payment of tax bills should be ready during October.

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to adopt the following meeting schedule:
- September 26; October 11 (Tuesday); October 24; November 7; November 21; December 5; December 19. Unanimous

Ethics Seminar

- (CB) has learned that a community must guarantee a minimum of 30 people for a Ethics Seminar which consists of a one to one and a half hour PowerPoint presentation. The date for this will be Thursday evening, October 27th. Invitations will be sent out this week so that we can confirm the number of attendees; (JM) suggested opening this up to neighboring towns within the Wachusett District.

Motion (JM) seconded (MQ) to adjourn Regular Meeting at 8:35pm. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator