

**Town of Paxton**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 13, 2006

Members Present: Michael Quinlivan, Chairman, John F. Malone, Vice Chair,  
Frederick G. Goodrich, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See Attendee Sheet

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

**Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2006, with one amendment. Unanimous.

**False Alarm Appeal – 74 Richards Ave**

- Ms. Porras explained that she had a new alarm system, which caused some initial problems back in January. She then stopped using the alarm and when she did set it again, she accidentally set it off, she called the alarm company, but the police had to dispatch someone.
- **Motion** (MQ) to abate the fine of \$300.00, as Ms. Porras had made an effort to lower the amount of false alarms, with proviso that if there is a further false alarm before the end of the year that would be the third false alarm and the fine would be reinstated. Unanimous.
- (CB) asked the BOS if they were happy with the level of the fees. The BOS agreed that they fees were doing what they were intended to do, keep the false alarms at a minimum.

**Trash Abatement Request – 6 Sherbrook Drive**

- Request for an abatement as property has been vacant since April 2006.
- BOS supplied with a list of all previous abatements and action taken.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to revert back to the previous policy set in September 2003, that a property has to be vacant for one year with minimal utility usage before abatement can be considered. Unanimous.
- Therefore abatement request denied at this time.

**Troop 105 Request**

- Boy Scout Troop 105 requesting the use of the common to sell wreathes on Dec 2, 3, 9 and 10.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept request with understanding that the Police Dept is informed. Unanimous.

**Town Administrators Update**

- Second round of bids for Elgin Sweeper as surplus equipment brought in two bids.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the highest bid of \$4,399.99 from Bodyworks Auto Body Repairs. Unanimous.

**313 Richards Avenue**

- Jim Cosgrove has requested that he, Susanne Blatt and their law firm Cosgrove and Blatt be designated as Special Municipal Employees for the purpose of Chapter 268A of MGL, as they are representing the Town in the 313 Richards Avenue case.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to make Jim Cosgrove, Susanne Blatt and Cosgrove and Blatt Law Firm as Municipal Employees under C268A of MGL. Unanimous.



- (CB) When minutes of this meeting are accepted, a copy needs to be certified by the Town Clerk and sent to the Law Firm.

#### **Techwatch**

- PC Plus has provided a proposal for Techwatch Service, which is off-site security monitoring. (CB) believes that there is sufficient money in the MIS account for the monitoring but would like to see the one time hardware and installation fee reduced by PC Plus.

#### **Update of Town Administrators Goals & Objectives (attached)**

- (CB) reviewed goals & objectives to date.
- (FG) provided amendments to the Employee Handbook.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) once amendments made to the handbook, it can be issued to employees. Unanimous.

#### **Regional Meeting**

- (CB) next regional meeting is November 30, 2006 in Holden.

#### **Website**

- The Town's website has been up and running since October 1, 2005. In October alone, there were 5,278 page visits from 1,009 unique IP addresses including 2,255 repeat visitors.

#### **Tax Classification Hearing (see information attached)**

- Hearing opened at 7:40pm – Board of Assessors present

#### **#1. Factor 1 versus C797.**

- Rosemary Warren, asked that the BOS consider giving relief for Open Space, as was done two years ago.
- **Motion** (MQ) seconded (FG) to accept Factor 1. Unanimous.
- (MQ) stated that he felt C61 provide better relief than the Open Space discount.

#### **#2 Open Space Discount**

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) no Open Space discount. Unanimous.

#### **#3. Residential Exemption**

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to give no residential exemption. Unanimous.

#### **#4. Commercial Exemption**

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to give no Commercial Exemption. Unanimous.

Tax Classification hearing closed at 7:55pm.

#### **Cemetery Commission Appointment**

- Two letters of interest received from Chris Stone and Larry Hammerberg.
- This is to be a joint appointment between the BOS and Cemetery Commission.
- Chris Stone stated that he believed the commission had achieved a lot whilst he was a part of it, they worked with the school, the boy scouts and the Legion and has never missed a meeting. He continues to do research on the cemetery.
- Larry Hammerberg stated that there had been discontent on the Commission in the past and that he would like to assist the board get back on track. He has not attended any meetings since his resignation
- The expansion was discussed at great length along with whether or not this was necessary.
- Chairman asked for a motion for appointment to the commission.



- **Motion** (FG) and seconded (MQ) to appoint Chris Stone to the Cemetery Commission until the May 2007 Election. (JM) and (MQ) against, Melinda Johnson (Cemetery Commission) against (FG) Yes, Lois Melican (Cemetery Commission) Yes. Vote failed
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (MQ) to appoint Larry Hammerberg to the Cemetery Commission until the May 2007 Election. (JM) & (MQ) Yes (FG) against, Melinda Johnson Yes, Lois Melican against. **Motion** carried.

**Agricultural Committee – Article**

**Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept article to be placed on the next Town Meeting warrant. Unanimous.

**Other Business**

- (JM) asked the progress with procurement of cable equipment. (CB) one purchase order issued will follow up.
- (FG) next meeting agenda include prioritizing of DOR recommendations, and Bylaw review.
- (FG) would like to see all timesheets approved correctly and compensatory time recorded and authorized. BOS to review the compensatory time policy at the next meeting.

**Resignation**

- Letter of resignation from Robert Bostwich from the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to accept resignation with regret. Unanimous.
- Melinda Johnson requested that the board consider a request to appoint Trustees of the Center Cemetery. (CB) to look into and report back to the BOS on Cemetery Commissioners responsibilities.

**Motion** (JM) and seconded (FG) to adjourn meeting at 9:10pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant  
Paxton Board of Selectmen