

# **Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 27, 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 November 13, 2006, with two additions. Unanimous.

### **Insurance Advisory Committee**

- Members present Harold Smith and Deirdre Malone.
- Increase in new premium amount 14.74%, would still be within the budget for FY07.
- Committee recommend renewing current policies with Harvard Pilgrim (Select Care) and Fallon Senior.
- (CB) over five years increase has only been 7.5% and more competitive than the State Program.
- **Motion** (FG) to accept recommendations of Insurance Advisory Committee. Unanimous.

### **Town Administrators Update**

#### **Department Managers Meeting**

- Managers meeting November 15<sup>th</sup>, budget sheets distributed.

#### **Board of Appeals**

- Board of Appeals opening left by Robert Bostwick filled by alternate Paul Robinson. As there are still three alternates remaining, which is number authorized by zoning bylaws, no further appointments can be made at this time.

#### **Trustees of Center Cemetery**

- Request by Melinda Johnson to establish a board of Trustees of Center Cemetery, research determined that Cemetery Commission has the oversight responsibility for both Center and Mooreland Cemeteries.
- (MQ) request that (CB) write to Melinda Johnson informing her of this information.

#### **Ambulance Service**

- Chief Conte attended the meeting to provide information of proposed ambulance service for the Town and his recommendations to fund an ambulance housed in Paxton to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) coverage for 16 hours per day 7 days per week, with Basic Life Support (BLS) for the remaining 8 hours per day. Upgrade of service provided through regionalization with the Spencer Rescue Squad with their paramedics.
- The ambulance initially would be a used vehicle purchased, owned and equipped by the Town. Would present an article at Town Meeting for \$30,000.
- Chief Conte (ALS) would be 6am to 10pm and (BLS) 10pm to 6am.
- Present response time to scene is 6 minutes by Paxton First Responders and 17 minutes for a Private Ambulance and would be improved to 4 minutes for the (ALS) Paxton ambulance for 16 hours a day 6 minutes for Paxton First Responders and 12 minutes for the intercept of the ALS

from Spencer for the remaining 8 hours per day.

- Chief Conte – Spencer would do all billing and any revenue would be used to pay Spencer's fees; would eventually hope to break even. Would save on training as Spencer would do this "in house" the only cost being for exams and certification.
- Resident, Bill Gearin and Worcester Paramedic John Lynch spoke highly of the Spencer Rescue Service and the importance of quality of care.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to include Chief Conte's proposal in the FY08 budget and see what happens. Unanimous.

#### **Regional Firefighter Training**

- Chief Conte plans to sponsor up to eight students in the Mass Firefighters Training, one student being his son.
- Chapter 268A Section 19 (b) 1 allows an exception to the conflict of interest law if the BOS provide a written determination that the interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services, which the municipality may expect from the employee (Chief Conte).
- Chief Conte provided a letter of declaration for filing with the Town Clerk.
- (CB) recommending a motion to authorize the chairman to sign a letter determining this.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to approve recommendation and allow Peter Conte to enroll in the training program with subsequent appointment as an On Call Firefighter. Unanimous.

#### **Master Plan Surveys**

- 595 surveys returned to date, over 350 have been tabulated. Final results expected December 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Chapter 90 Money**

- Further Chapter 90 money of \$52,584 is available for FY07, contract requires signing.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to recommend signing of contract by Chairman. Unanimous.

#### **Cemetery Commission**

- Lois Breault and Melinda Johnson requesting that the BOS support a planning grant application with Mass Historical Commission that would provide a 60/40 grant, deadline for grant being December 15, 2006. Grant would be used to take an inventory of both cemeteries.
- Cemetery Commission would like to use Cemetery Funds of approximately \$12,000, to apply for this grant, not positive as to whether funds need to be available prior to submission of application.
- (CB) pointed out that the use of the Perpetual Care funds is for upkeep of the cemetery and the use of the money from the Sale of Graves need a Town Meeting vote and there would not be sufficient time to do this.
- Lois to enquire as to whether or not funds need to be available on submission of the grant application.
- (FG) Need to be aware of grant availability and apply in time as appropriate.

#### **Compensatory Time**

- (FG) stated that he had recently seen some misuse of compensatory time.
- (CB) provided copies of present policy, advice from Town Counsel in 2002, and proposed amended policy.
- (MQ) review the policy and come back with suggested policy.
- (JM) would like to see a list of exempt employees and corresponding supervisors.

- (CB) clarify exempt employee policy.
- (CB) never seen a request for approval of compensatory time earned or used.
- (JM) see what we have, see what is needed and redefine the policy.
- (FG) place on agenda for next meeting to approve a policy.

#### **Other Business**

##### **Vandalism in Town**

- (FG) concerned with vandalism that occurred at the basketball courts and Little League shed along with other incidents. Not confined to just resident youths of Paxton. Would like to work with the Police to impose fines.
- Chief Desrosiers, constant problem, due to the layout of the school, many dark corners, propose putting up motion cameras to catch vandalism and other crimes.
- (FG) would like to impose liens on parents who do not pay fines.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to contact Town Counsel to see if liens can be placed on parents of non-paying fines. Unanimous.

##### **Regional Selectmen Meeting**

- Meeting now November 29<sup>th</sup> not 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** (JM) and seconded (FG) to adjourn meeting at 9:40pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant  
Paxton Board of Selectmen