

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 26, 2006

Members Present: Michael Quinlivan, Chair
John F. Malone, Vice Chair
Fred Goodrich, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Minutes

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2006. Unanimous.

Town Administrator's Update

Letter of Appreciation to Officer Newsham and Detective Silvestri

- (JM) Suggested the Board send a letter of thanks to Officer Newsham and Detective Silvestri

New 911 Equipment to be installed in Paxton in July, 2007

- (CB) reported that Chief Desrosiers has arranged for Bay Path carpentry students to build a new console in his present office space for the new equipment and the relocated Communications Center.

Initial responses from Rick Trifero on 313 Richards Ave. zoning issues

- (FG) expressed concern about the length of time this response has taken as well as the lack of a firm resolution date for the zoning issues.

Regional DPW Meetings

- (FG) expressed appreciation to (CB) for the coordination and follow-up on the regional initiative.

Compensatory Time Policy

- The Board agreed to review the proposed policy revisions as well as an email provided by (FG) regarding the policy and get any suggested changes back to (CB) next week. The Board will adopt a policy at the January 8, 2007, meeting.

Appeal of Fire Department Charge for Illegal Burn Response

- Theresa Bresolin of 105 Suomi Street told the Board she felt the Fire Chief had over reacted to her illegal burn on December 12, 2006. She was not aware of the restriction on open burning, said the fire was out when the fire Department arrived, and asked the Board to retract the bill that she has received.
- Chief Conte said that as Officer Keller was responding to call on Baxter Drive he saw large flames

from the rear of 105 Suomi Street as he passed by which he called in to Dispatch. Sgt Lang responded to that call after providing back-up to Officer Keller on the Baxter Drive call. When Sgt. Lang arrived at 105 Suomi Street he noticed a large fire burning behind the house and contacted Chief Conte who asked if it could be burned out within an hour. Sgt. Lang discussed this with Ms. Bresolin, who said she wanted to burn longer so that all the debris would burned to ashes. Sgt Lang then called the Fire Chief to say they would have to come and put the fire out.

- Chief Conte said that when he arrived on the scene he was harassed and insulted by Ms. Bresolin, (who denied this and then said that both the Chief and Sgt. Lang were both unprofessional for refusing to work with her.) Chief Conte also said that the material she was burning was not brush, but building debris which cannot be burned in the open at any time. Sgt. Lang confirmed what was said by Chief Conte.
- Kris Faucher of 107 Suomi Street said that there had been complaints from neighbors prior to this about burning smells in the area and that on December 9th at 12:30am they had seen flames in the backyard of 105 Suomi Street.
- (CB) said he had heard the December 12th call on the scanner and confirmed what was reported by Sgt. Lang.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded by (JM) to deny the appeal. Unanimous.

DLS Report Recommendation to Review Town Government Management Structure

- (FG) asked about the status of the General Bylaw review. (CB) replied that he and (CR) had just begun to look at how the existing list of Bylaws would fit into the General Bylaw format chosen by the Board. He said he felt it would take at least a month or two before they could make any recommendations on what additional bylaws would be needed to properly cover each of the areas that needed to be addressed. After that, it might be necessary to form a Bylaw Review Committee, but the timing of all of this would not allow anything to be brought before the May, 2007, Annual Town Meeting.
- There was also a discussion about the other DLS recommendations that the structure of Town Government be reviewed to adopt a centralized, strong town administrator form of government with an appointed Treasurer/Collector
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to appoint a Government Study Committee consisting of the Board of Selectmen and four to six other members, with membership preference given to those who served on the town Administrator Search Committee. Unanimous

Other Business

- (JM) asked the Board for their views on what needs to be done on the proposals for a new Public Safety Complex and Town Hall renovations. It was agreed these are both high priority items that are needed by the Town and that more financial information needs to be developed to see if the projects can be afforded.
- (FG) asked if a response had been received from Recreation regarding the playground trash complaint. No.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to adjourn Regular Meeting at 9:15pm. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Charles T. Blanchard, Town Administrator