

# **Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 26, 2007**

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 7:02pm.

- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to grant a One Day Liquor License to the Friends of the Richards Library on April 1, 2007. Unanimous.
- Request for a One Day Liquor License for the Council on Aging for March 16, 2007, St. Patrick's Day Dinner. (FG) said he is not in favor of this because he does not feel a government agency should be granted a license such as this. (JM) asked if the COA had received one day licenses in the past, (CB) replied that they had received one last year for their Wine Tasting Dinner and at least one other for a Financial Planning presentation. - **Motion** by (MQ) seconded (JM) to table the request and have (CB) find out if the Friends of The Council on Aging would sponsor the event.

### **Town Administrator's Update**

1. The Board reviewed the Articles proposed for placement on the Warrant for the May 7, 2007, Annual Town Meeting as follows:
  - Funds for Final Phase of Master Plan Study – **Motion to place** (JM) second (FG) Unanimous
  - Unpaid FY06 Bills - \$811.08 to Central Mass Disposal – **Motion to place** (JM) second (FG) Unanimous
  - Revised wording on Chapter 90 acceptance and authorization to borrow – **Motion to place** (JM) second (FG) Unanimous
  - Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2006 – Member of an adjudicatory board of committee can miss on session of a public hearing – **Motion to place** (JM) second (FG) Unanimous
  - Establish an Agricultural Committee – **Motion to place** (FG) second (JM) Unanimous
  - Adopt a "Right to Farm Bylaw" – **Motion to place** (FG) second (JM) Unanimous
  - Planning Board considering an OSRD Bylaw (Public Hearing March 12<sup>th</sup>) – **Motion to place** (FG) second (JM) Unanimous
  - Adopt MGL c. 32B § 18 (eligible retirees join Medicare) (FG) questioned if current retirees understand this law (CB) said those that it applies to do. – **Motion to place** (FG) second (JM) Unanimous

- Local Historic District Bylaw Corrections – **Motion to place** (FG) second (JM) Unanimous
  - Repair of Town Hall Roof - \$15,000 for Mansard only – After much discussion the Board decided to hold on this until Capital Improvement Committee could review it. (FG) also requested three quotes on the cost.
  - Capital Improvement Committee Recommendations
    - a) Ambulance – vehicle and equipping cost – (MQ) expressed concern that there was apparently no procedure to allow the Capital Improvement Committee to rate items such as this that are required by policy decisions by the Board of Selectmen or other committees.
    - b) DPW – Upgrade to doors and windows
    - c) New Cruiser – (JM) wants to know if a four wheel drive vehicle should be purchased instead of a cruiser.
    - d) New Catch Basin cleaner on rehabbed 1997 Dump truck

– **Motion to place** Capital Recommendations (a through d) (JM) second (FG) Unanimous
  - Design and Construct New Public Safety Complex (\$8,798,100 subject to passage of a debt exclusion) – **Motion to place** (JM) second (FG) Unanimous
  - Design and prepare construction documents for Renovation of Town Hall (Capital Improvement Committee recommendation is to wait for free cash to be certified in FY08 and fund design from that at STM.) The Board agreed to look at this again when Free Cash situation is more final.
  - Article to join Worcester Regional Transit Authority – The Board agreed to wait until WTRA provides more information as to the benefits to the Town.
  - Request from Recreation Commission for \$12,000 for a new lawn mower – was in requested budget, suggested as an article – **Motion** (JM) second (FG) to refer this to the Capital Improvement Committee.
  - Request from Police Department for a Pre-fabricated Garage to house Police Cruiser during construction of new Complex – was in requested budget at \$18,500, suggested as an article – (JM) requested we find out if there is space available for the cruisers in the Light Department Building.
2. (CB) informed the Board of the resignation of the Planning Board Administrative Secretary and that the opening is posted on the Town's Website and at the Town Hall. (FG) suggested posting it at the Library and the Market.
  3. The work being done with Alternative Calculation of Other Post Retirement Benefits (ACOPEB) was discussed with the Board.
  4. The draft of the Eagle Scout project proposed by Michael Urbanowski was presented to the Board for their information and comments prior to the end of the week.
  5. A list of applicants for the Government Study Committee was presented to the Board. - **Motion** (FG) second (JM) appointing Alina Chand, Bob Hall, Rob Jacobson and Alice Livdahl to a Government Study Committee including the Board of Selectmen to consider the government structure changes recommended in the DLS Financial Management Review dated September, 2006.
  6. The memo from the Town Accountant outlining her remaining tasks for this year was reviewed

and discussed. (FG) said he feels the Board of Selectmen is not getting the financial information they require. The Board agreed to appoint (FG) to investigate whether things can be done in a timelier manner.

(CB) discussed a memo to the Board dated February 26, 2007, in which he pointed out that the Management Discussion & Analysis Letter in the recently received Wachusett Financial Statements said that an additional \$4.5 million in unforeseen and unbudgeted construction costs would be borrowed this year, and that an additional \$594,266 was found and placed in the District's E&D Fund this past year, bringing the total E&D amount to \$1,041,078. The Board requested that a letter be sent to the District requesting additional information on these matters. (JM) also requested that Duncan Leith and Emerson Wheeler be invited in to explain this additional borrowing to the Board.

(MQ) raised the question of what was being done to resolve any underground storage tank issues in Paxton, particularly at the Paxton Center School. He would like Chief Conte to take all statutory action he is allowed by law to force compliance with underground storage tank laws. He will also e-mail information on a state grant program designed to take care of these issues at no cost to the town or the District.

### **Other Business**

(JM) requested an update on the status of the new equipment for the Cable TV upgrade. (CB) said that quotations had been received and were forwarded to the Cable TV Committee for review. (CR) will work with the Cable TV Committee this week to get the orders placed.

(JM) requested laptop computers be purchased for each Board member so that paper correspondence could be greatly reduced or eliminated.

(FG) requested information on any rulings or decisions made by the DEP or the DCR on the 313 Richards Avenue issue.

(JM) and (FG) asked whether any response had been received from the Board of Health regarding the information sent to them on the Earthday Hazardous Waste Site proposal or the Mosquito Control Project. Nothing has been received yet.

(FG) asked about the General Bylaw review. (CB) said that he and (CR) are reviewing this to get a better idea of the work that will be involved and will make a recommendation regarding this by the end of March. (FG) warned that unless something is started it will never get done.

### **Public Access**

(MQ) asked if there were any issues the public wanted to bring up with the Board before the Budget discussion begins. (RH) asked for a clarification on the cost of the ambulance.

### **Budget Discussion**

(JM) suggested placing a small amount of money in the Town Administrator's budget to use as "seed" money for small grants that could be applied for during the year, but require matching funds that might not be available. (FG) suggested putting some money in the Selectmen's budget for this purpose.

(MQ) mentioned that he was pleased the Governor adopted the Circuit Breaker he suggested at the meeting held in Worcester with the Lieutenant Governor – Elect in December.

(FG) asked if a meeting was scheduled yet for the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to go over the budget. (CB) said he was not aware of one, but that the Capital Improvement Committee had offered to have a joint meeting with them to go over the capital requests on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> if they felt there was need to do this.

**Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to adjourn Regular Meeting at 9:20pm. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Charles T. Blanchard, Town Administrator