

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 30, 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 7:05pm.

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (MQ) to accept Regular Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2007. Unanimous.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept Executive Meeting Minutes (Non – contract employee negotiations) of April 17, 2007. Unanimous.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept Executive Meeting Minutes (Pending Litigation) of April 17, 2007. Unanimous.

Council on Aging Board Appointment

- Request to appoint George Howatt to the COA Board Louise Howatt and Natalie Siemen as Associate Members.
- (FG) would like to defer to the next meeting.

Donation of Land – Map 30 Lot 33

- Letter received wishing to donate a parcel of land at the corner of Pleasant Street and Ledyard Road.
- (CB) suggested that we should write to owner and ask them to consider donation or selling to abutter of parcel.
- Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent present and was asked whether the Town could use this lot for any DPW purpose. Superintendent responded that they had no need of this lot.
- BOS agreed to respond thanking Mrs. Bowe for the offer, but make suggestion per (CB).

One-Day Liquor License – Paxton Recreation

- A request for one-day permit in August at the old pool site.
- (MQ) against any Town board being responsible for serving alcohol, wrong to encourage beer/wine in parks.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to reject for the sake of discussion.
- (JM) would like to see more of a plan for the event and a response to the Police Chiefs points raised.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to withdraw and request more details and response to Chief memo” Unanimous.

Town Administrators Update

Public Safety complex

- BOS reviewed and discussed the debt service estimates on the Public Safety Complex proposal.
- (CB) believed the best option would be a 40-year term.

Open Space & Recreation Bylaw

- Town Counsel has reviewed the wording of the Open Space Residential Design Bylaw and has made changes consistent with what was reviewed at the Planning Board Public Hearing.

DPW Summer Work Schedule

- DPW would like to start their summer work schedule May 14th through September 14, 2007.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to agree to the DPW summer schedule dates. Unanimous.

DPW – Phil McPherson

- Mike Putnam, DPW Superintendent has reviewed Phil McPherson performance following completion of his probation period and would like to recommend permanent employment.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to accept Mike Putnam’s recommendation. Unanimous.

BOS Meeting Schedule

- (CB) proposed the following dates for the next BOS meetings as follows May 21, June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13 and August 27th.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to accept these dates. Unanimous.

Government Study Committee

- (CB) would like to initiate a first meeting of this committee. BOS choose May 17th, May

24th or May 31st as suggestions.

Lot 32 Howard Street

- Diane Dillman, Light Dept. would request that the owners of the property provide a recorded easement to the Light Dept. prior to any electric being provided.

Average Single Family Tax Bill

- (CB) provided information showing how the average single-family tax bill has changed relative to the rest of the communities in Massachusetts. Now 36th percentile in HI-LO ranking compared to 1990 when Paxton was up to the 25th percentile.

Wachusett Regional School District Budget

- Regional BOS meeting on Wednesday to review FY08 WRSD budget.
- (CB) If no agreement prior to ATM, pass over article 1. and reconvene in June 2007.
- (MQ) believed that the BOS should have delayed the ATM until the WRSD budget was finalized, to avoid having to return for another meeting.
- (JM) we are all in agreement, and know where monies are.
- (MQ) upset with the free cash situation, due to lack of borrowing and stated that every year we go through this, where we have to borrow in anticipation of taxes, due to them going out late, suggested going to estimated semi annual tax bills or quarterly.
- (CB) tax bills were out late this year due the transition of the new Accountant, closing the books later than usual
- (FG) directed (MQ) to come up with a plan to change the Town Meeting date and provide information to (CB) on changing the tax basis on issuing bills.
- **Motion** (MQ) to have (CB) provide information on changing the basis for tax bills issued estimated semi annual and quarterly and the cost to the Town. No second, Motion failed.
- **Motion** (JM) seconded (FG) to move meeting along. (MQ) no motion.

Correspondence

- Letter from Commonwealth regarding gas prices in relation to going out to bid for Highway products.
- (CB) passed information on DPW Superintendent and will review at time of bidding.

Public Session

- Chris de Marcken asked whether (CB) had been in touch with Town Counsel to ask the question as to whether article could be brought forward on the Town floor to put money into stabilization.

- (CB) no benefit in putting free cash into stabilization. Once free cash certified can put into overlay surplus. FY08 will see a greater amount of free cash.

Motion (JM) seconded (FG) to adjourn Meeting at 840pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches
Administrative Assistant