

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 23RD, 2015 at 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chair Thomas E. Buckley, III, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2nd Vice-Chair Matthew Dennison, Selectwoman Sandra Wilson and Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar were in attendance. Selectmen Doug Belanger arrived at 7:22pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment

1. SCHEDULED

A. 6:30pm – Underground Utility Hearing – National Grid

Ken Dobe from National Grid was present and discussed the project which would replace underground cables servicing the Pine Acres development. Questions from residents and the Board included the following:

- Who is the contractor?
- Will all digging occur in the road only?
- Are there secondary lines?
- What about interruption of electricity? Will it be one time or multiple times? Will residents be notified in advance and how? How long will power be out?
- What is the expected project duration?
- Will core samples be taken?
- Serious issue of the ledge in the area
- Will transformers be removed/relocated and filled in?
- Will NGrid pave curb to curb? If digging in the middle of the road patching will not be sufficient
- Issue of manholes having dropped significantly
- Will there be blasting to get through the ledge and will NGrid come around and inspect homes for damage (e.g. cracks in the foundation) afterwards like they did last time

Mr. Dobe was unable to answer questions and subsequently the Board continued the hearing to their next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and Ms. Provencher to continue the hearing to March 2nd, 2015 at 6:30pm. The motion carried unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter of Thanks – Paxton Founders Day Committee

Mr. Buckley read a letter from Anita Fenton, chair of the Paxton Founders Day Committee, thanking the Board for their proclamation and attendance at the founders' day event.

B. 2014 Crime Statistics

Chief Hurley presented the 2014 crime statistics as summarized below:

- Crime is down in all majority categories, especially crime against persons
- 117% increase in the subcategory of aggravated assault as PD is focusing more on this category which includes domestic disturbance and road rage.

- Crimes against property are down to nearly their lowest point ever; however, there has been an increase in breaking and entering crimes (41 in 2014 vs. 20 in 2013) and this is a countywide trend
- Counterfeiting and forgery increased from 1 in 2013 to 6 in 2014
- Pickpocketing increase from 1 in 2013 to 3 in 2014
- Crimes against society is at its lower rate since 2006

Mr. Buckley thanked the Police Department for all their hard work. Ms. Provencher noted the report is very well documented and leaves no questions to ask. Mr. Dennison asked about the canine grant. Chief Hurley responded he will call if he hasn't heard on it by the end of the week. Ms. Wilson asked about the duration of the grant. Chief Hurley responded if selected the Town would receive \$25,000 for the first year and it is renewable for 2 or 3 years. Ms. Wilson asked about liquor violations and stings. Chief Hurley responded that in 2013 PD had a grant to perform stings on retailers but lacked the manpower in 2014 to conduct stings on underage purchasers.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment – Part Time Custodian

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to appoint Christopher Ballantine to the position of part-time custodian contingent upon meeting all Police Department hiring requirements including a satisfactory background check. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Appointment – ZBA – Paul Schold

Mr. Mizikar presented a request from the ZBA to appoint Paul Schold as a full time member to replace Linda Finan who is no longer able to attend meetings. A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Paul Schold to the ZBA as a full time member. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment – Tax Title Property Custodian for 2-4 and 6-8 Dale Court

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Amy Perkins, Interim Treasurer/Tax Collector, as the tax title property custodian for 2-4 and 6-8 Dale Court. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Promotions to the Position of Police Sergeant

Mr. Mizikar and Chief Hurley presented an overview of the promotional process to the Board of Selectmen and recommended the Officers Michael Fontaine and Alexander Samia be promotion to the rank of sergeant.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to promote Michael Fontaine to the position of sergeant effective March 1st, 2015 at 12:01am. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to promote Alexander Samia to the position of sergeant effective March 1st, 2015 at 12:01am. The motion carried 3:1 with Ms. Wilson opposed.

Mr. Mizikar noted that a pinning ceremony would be held at the next Board meeting. Chief Hurley noted that Michael Lombardozzi and James Murphy have completed their rigorous 6 month Police Academy training and are assisting with detail work.

Mr. Belanger arrived at 7:22pm.

E. Second Annual Hilltop 10K Road Race

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to approve the request to hold the 2nd annual Hilltop 10K road race on May 3, 2015. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Wilson asked if the event hosts are paying a maintenance fee at the Senior Center. Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative.

F. Right of First Refusal – Mulberry Street

Mr. Mizikar presented a request to sell Chapter 61 forest lands along Mulberry Street as part of a proposed solar development. The Town has the right of first refusal to sell the land but must match the offer. Mr. Mizikar conferred with Town Departments and Commissions and no one saw the need for the Town to acquire this land. Mr. Mizikar recommended the Town not exercise its right of first refusal.

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to waive the Board's right of first refusal to purchase forest land located on Mulberry Street, Parcel M14, A4. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dennison noted a solar farm will increase revenues and asked if the solar panels will affect the airport. Mr. Mizikar responded that the developer will be required to provide notice to the airport.

G. Lease Purchase Agreement - Ambulance

Mr. Mizikar presented the ambulance lease purchase with Tax Exempt Lease Corp for the Board's consideration. The total cost with interest would be \$173,709.05. It is a five year lease/purchase agreement and Year 1 funding is in place. The Town saved \$13K by putting the project out to bid.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all documents related to the Lease Purchase Agreement for the ambulance and authorize the Board Chair to sign the lessee resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wilson noted the truck is en route and the progress can be watched online.

H. Agreement – UMASS Medical School Medicaid Administration

Mr. Mizikar presented an agreement with UMASS Medical School to administer the Town's Medicaid reimbursement for providing educational services to qualified students. The agreement is nearly identical to its predecessor and UMASS charges a 4.25% fee for these services.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Ms. Provencher to enter into an agreement with UMASS Medical School for Medicaid Administration and to authorize the Town Administration to execute the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

I. 2014 Draft MS4 Stormwater Permit

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher sign the MS4 Stormwater Permit comment letters. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

A. Waite Pond Dam Update

Chris Cullen, Engineer with the firm Fuss & O'Neill provided an update on Waite Pond Dam. Phase II is complete and it is recommended that the dam be reconstructed as it is in very bad condition and the Office of Dam Safety is requiring action be taken. Mr. Mizikar noted he had met with the lake association and they were supportive of the project. Mr. Cullen estimated the cost to be between \$200K and \$300K but noted the cost will go down as additional design phases are completed.

B. Snow and Ice Update

As of 2/17/15, the Town is running a \$125,323 deficit in its snow and ice account. Mr. Mizikar estimated that a total of \$135K in free cash will be needed to balance the account at Town Meeting. Mr. Mizikar also noted one Highway vehicle has been significantly damaged and an insurance claim has been put in. Mr. Belanger thanked the highway department in particular and all public safety employees for doing a great job during the storms and hopes to get up to 75% of the costs reimbursed through FEMA.

C. Al Nash Remembrance

Mr. Buckley recommended taking a particular day once the snow melts to lower the flag to half-mast in memory of Al Nash, former Selectmen and State Representative. Mr. Buckley asked Mr. Belanger to reach out to his family regarding a date.

D. FY'16 Budget

No updates at this time.

E. Three to Five Year Goaling

Mr. Mizikar noted the one of his performance goals is to work with the Board to develop 3-5 goals for the Town. Mr. Mizikar provided a summary of the goaling process and will be setting up a goaling workshop for Board members soon.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Mizikar presented highlights from his Town Administrator report.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to direct the Town Administrator to contact National Grid and express the Board's disappointment with the information provided at the meeting on Pine Acres and how to improve communication. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Mr. Belanger to direct the Town Administrator to send a letter to Massport expressing the Board's displeasure over leaving Leicester out of the airport expansion plan and not being able to answer questions relative to Leicester at their public information session. The motion carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

6. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ms. Wilson reminded residents to remove snow from their roofs.

Mr. Belanger noted the WRTA is running on storm routes and has offered the Town a WRTA van to shuttle residents to shelters in case of emergency. Mr. Mizikar noted a reverse 911 call would go out to residents if a shelter is opened and would be posted on social media. Residents can also call dispatch for power outages.

Mr. Dennison congratulated Officers Lombardozzi and Murphy on graduating from the police academy.

Ms. Provencher warned residents to be mindful of snow piles and kids, to slow down while driving and to use the sidewalks whenever possible.

Mr. Buckley asked residents to be patient and help one another out. Mr. Buckley also noted he enjoyed the Paxton Founders Day Celebration.

7. MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept the minutes of February 5th, 2015 with the following change:

- Mr. Dennison stated that John Cove had attended several Board of Selectmen meetings

The motion carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 8:41pm to enter into execution session under exemption #3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and potential litigation and to reconvene in open session only for the purpose of adjournment. Mr. Buckley declared that to discuss these matters in open session would comprise the position of the Town.

Vote by Roll Call:

Buckley – Aye

Provencher - Aye

Dennison – Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison at 8:54pm. The motion carried unanimously.