

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING with A/P
Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

	ROSTER	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	ABSENT
FIRST SELECTMAN:	Rodney Fournier	X		
SELECTMEN:	Bryce Aaronson			X
	Mather Clarke			X
	David Cowles			X
	Robert DePietro		X	
	Gwen Marrion	X		
	Tim Sadler	X		

STAFF:	Stephanie Smigala, Interim Finance Director
	Kara Fishman, Assessor
	Rich Barger, Town Attorney
	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary

1.0 Call to Order:

First Selectman Rodney Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2.0 Public Comment:

Amanda Gordon – Bolton resident, former Bolton Selectwoman.

- Raising concerns of a \$250,000 state grant for a recreation project at the gazebo on the town green remains unspent over a year after award, raising concerns about lost opportunities and future funding.
- Awarded grant funds were secured through a competitive municipal solicitation process championed by state senator MD Rahman.
- Suggestions include hiring a consultant for grant writing and management and improving project status transparency on the town website.
- New state online grant management platform introduced; town staff are being trained to use it for better tracking and communication.
- Ms. Gordon suggested to the BOS to consider including on the town website information on each ongoing (capital improvement) project and status updates or completion status.

3.0 Re-address Veterans Tax Exemption

- Town Attorney Rich Barger explained options for adopting or amending ordinances to provide tax exemptions for surviving spouses of military personnel killed in action.
 - Statutory Reference: Connecticut General Statutes 12-81QQ and 45-168.
- The BOS discussed with Town Assessor, Kara Fishman, adopting Connecticut General Statutes 12-81QQ, granting a full property or motor vehicle tax exemption to surviving spouses of military personnel killed in action.
- Recommendation to adopt the statutory language by motion rather than ordinance to ensure consistency with changing state laws.
- Clarified that the exemption applies to the primary residence (with possible inclusion of the lot), and procedural details are governed by state statute.
- Consensus reached to proceed, with formal motion to be drafted for a future meeting.
- Clarified that application procedures are covered in the statute, requiring documentation like DD-214.
- Discussion included the recognized need to update or repeal outdated ordinances to avoid conflicts.

4.0 Appointments/Resignations:

a. Daniel Monquin – Fire Commission – Full-Time Member (appointment)

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to APPOINT** Daniel Monquin as a full-time member of the Fire Commission. Selectman R. DePietro **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

b. Ulana Hryn (Loni) – Bently Library Board (resignation)

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to ACCEPT** the resignation of Ulana Hryn (Loni) from the Bently Library Board and thanked her for her public service.

Selectman R. Depietro **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

c. Kelcie Perkins – Bently Library Page (resignation)

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to ACCEPT** the resignation of Kelcie Perkins and thanked her for her public service. Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

d. Zoe Sondik – Bently Library Page (resignation)

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to ACCEPT** the resignation of Zoe Sondik and thanked her for her public service. Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

5.0 Correspondence: None.

6.0 New Business:

a. Cease-and-Desist Order for 27 Hanover Farms Road.

- 27 Hanover Farms Road faced a cease-and-desist order due to illegal commercial parties in a residential zone.
 - Legal Steps: Town seeking a permanent injunction; temporary injunction considered but may not be necessary if offending parties cease activity.
 - Violations included commercial activity, noise, and unpermitted use (e.g., selling liquor, public pool).
 - Neighbor Involvement: Residents tracked party relocations and communicated with the town.
 - Legal Fees: Town expects to recoup legal costs if successful.
 - Potential Appeal: Tenant has a window to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but little chance of success foreseen.

b. Consider and Act on request for Bid Waiver for Laser Guided Control Module (Highway Department).

- Highway Department Purchase: Discussion on acquiring a laser grading control module.
 - Bid Process: Three bids obtained (Topcon, Superior Products, Geosystems); Topcon was favored due to price and prior experience.
 - Bid Waiver: Initially considered but rendered unnecessary due to compliance with bid ordinance.
 - Budget: \$17,500 allocated; purchase price ~\$14,367, leaving surplus.

c. BOS Retreat Schedule for September 22, 2026 – Immediately Following BOS with A/P Meeting – 5 PM Meeting Start

- Purpose: To review town direction and prioritize issues, especially regarding facilities and the town hall.
 - Format: Consensus to focus the retreat on facilities/STV report, possibly with a facilitator.
 - Public Involvement: Considered allowing public attendance but limiting participation; further public forums (coffee and conversation) planned.
 - Tentatively September 22nd, following the BOS/AP meeting; scheduling to be confirmed.
 - Need for clear direction and actionable outcomes highlighted.

d. 3 Board Meeting: Scheduled for October 20, 2026

- Three-Board Meeting: Scheduled for October 20th, 2026 (Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, Board of Education).

e. BOS and Land Use Meeting – November 17, 2026 – Immediately Following BOS with A/P

- Planned for September 17th after the BOS/AP meeting.

7.0 Old Business: None.

8.0 Finance Reports:

Stephanie Smigala, Interim Finance Director, gave a summary report to the BOS on the following:

- **FY 2026:**
 - Expended \$6.7M of \$7.2M budget (93.39%); \$477,806 unexpended.
 - Highlights: Employee separation fund offset retirements; highways and streets and building operations near full expenditure; economic development unused.
 - Most departments within budget.
 - Grants: Awaiting reimbursement for accessibility playground; \$500,000 grant (split into two \$250,000 awards) in process.
- **FY 2027:**
 - \$544,752 spent (12.75% of budget); certain departments (highways, land use, property insurance) spending in line with expectations.
- **Tax Collection:**
 - FY 2026: \$19.75M collected (101.62% of levy).
 - FY 2027: \$16.4M collected (76.47% overall); slightly behind last year but within expectations.
 - Tax collection rates strong; ongoing monitoring of grant cash flow and interest impact.

9. Consider and Act on A/P: June 30, 2026 \$110,506.46

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to ACCEPT** the Accounts Payable for FY25-26, in the amount of \$110,506.46. Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to ACCEPT** the Accounts Payable for FY26-27 in the amount of \$263,400.74. Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

10.0 Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:

No action required by the BOS as transfers were observed as being under the \$2000.00 threshold for approval. Budget transfers for this meeting are an informational notice to the BOS.

11. Town Administrator's Report:

This report is informational. The BOS discussed a few items from the Town Administrator's report.

Administrative Improvements & Procedural Updates

- **Workflow Automation:** Plans to implement Tyler software for invoice and PO processing, reducing paper and improving tracking.
- **Bid Process Improvements:** Discussion on separating RFPs for pavilion and concrete work at Herrick Park to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- **Project Status:** Adaptive playground construction progressing well.

Grant & Project Management

- **New State Grant Platform:** Training completed; expected to improve grant tracking and application.
- **Grant Deadlines:** Funds (for existing awarded grant monies) must be utilized by end of FY 2027.

13. Approval of Minutes:

a. June 30, 2026 – BOS with A/P

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to APPROVE** June 30, 2026, meeting minutes with A/P.

Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

b. July 7, 2026 – BOS Regular Meeting

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to APPROVE** July 7, 2026, meeting minutes.

Selectman R. Depietro **SECONDED;**

Discussions:

Correction of Bolton resident Bob Morra's last name.

MOTION CARRIED; 3:0:1

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion
Nay	0
Abstain	Sadler

c. July 14, 2026 – BOS with A/P

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to APPROVE** July 14, 2026, meeting minutes with A/P.

Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

14.0 Executive Session: Personnel Matters

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to START** the Executive Session and **INVITE** Interim Finance Director, Stephanie Smigala to the session. Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:0**

Start Executive Session at: 7:41 PM

End Executive Session at: 8:15 PM

15.0 Adjourn:

Consensus to adjourn **at 8:15 PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo, Recording Clerk

Andrea Vassallo

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.

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