

**BOARD OF ETHICS
SPECIAL MEETING - MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025, 5:30 PM**

The board of ethics held its special meeting on May 6, 2025, with the first selectman, Rodney Fournier, presiding. Also, present was Town administrator Jim Rupert, and on the board members present were: Basia Caya, Robert Neil, Matthew Wright, and Thomas Tierney. Ellen Barnes arrived at 5:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Election of the Commission Chair.

Motion: Robert Neil made a motion to nominate Basya Caya as the Board Chair, and she accepted.
1st Robert Neil 2nd Matthew Wright | Vote 4 yes. Motion Passed.

Motion: Basya Caya made a motion to nominate Robert Neil as a vice chair
1st Basya Caya 2nd Thomas Tierney | Vote 4 yes. Motion Passed.

3. Approval of Minutes: May 20, 2024- Regular Meeting.

Motion: Robert Neil made a motion to approve the May 20, 2024, minutes.
1st Robert Neil 2nd Ellen Barnes | Vote: 4 yes, 1 abstention (Tierney).

4. Determine if it's a conflict of interest for Russell Dawson to conduct the Facility Study for the Town of Bolton. (Consider and Act)

After discussion, the Board of Ethics determined that Mr. Manning's dual role as a principal of Russell and Dawson and as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission does not constitute a direct conflict of interest with respect to the firm's participation in the Facilities Study, as the Planning and Zoning Commission does not award or influence the awarding of such contracts.

The Board acknowledged, however, that the situation may present an appearance of impropriety to the public. The Board noted that any future projects resulting from the Facilities Study would be subject to new bidding processes, at which time potential conflicts should be reassessed if Russell and Dawson were to submit proposals.

Accordingly, the Board's consensus is that interviewing and potentially awarding the Facilities Study contract to Russell and Dawson is permissible, but the Board recommends that the Town remain attentive to concerns of public perception and ensure transparency in all subsequent related procurement.

Motion: The board of ethics determined that there is no conflict of interest for Russell Dawson to conduct the Facility Study for the Town of Bolton.
4 votes yes, 1 abstention (Tierney)

5. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully,
Suellen Kamara