

**Bolton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
7:00PM, Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Bolton Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road
Minutes**

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on November 14, 2017, at the Bolton Town Hall, with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectman Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion and Sandra Pierog; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille and several members of the public.

1. **Call to Order:** M. Morra called the meeting to order 7:00PM.

2. **Public Comment:** Barbara Amodio, 50 Volpi Road, Bike walk Bolton, wanted to thank Selectmen G. Marrion and R. Neil for granting opportunity to improve bike path.
G. Marrion made a statement recognizing B. Amodio and Sylvia Ounpuu for their work with Bike Walk Bolton which was also recognized by the Connecticut People Choice Awards.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**
October 10, 2017, M. Eremita moved to approve minutes, R. Morra seconded.
S. Pierog inquired about item 3 pg. 2, the word reading "Nowek" should be changed to "Nowak".
G. Marrion referenced the Public Comment Section, para. 2, a word missing at the end of the sentence. It reads, "...she felt one neighborhood" but should be changed to, "...she felt one in her neighborhood". On pg. 2, a misspelled word needs to be changed to "Gourley".
M. Eremita made a motion to approve the minutes with changes, R. Neil seconded. Motion passed: vote 5:0:0

4. **Correspondents:** M. Eremita made a motion to accept the retirement letter from Fire Marshal Raymond A. Walker Jr. effective November 17th, 2017 and write a letter thanking him for his service, R. Neil seconded. Motion passed - vote 5:0:0

5. **Unfinished Business** None.

6. **New Business**
 - a. **Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension**
R. Morra opened with the date of the DOT informational meeting being held December 6, 2017 at 7PM at the Bolton town hall. Discussion will include a possible connector with the Rails to Trails and the England's Shopping Plaza, possible change to the end of Notch Road at I-384 terminus and update on the current trail project. The different traffic patterns proposed would be safer and provide a simpler easy access.
G. Marrion added that, in regard to trails, the topic has been raise at other meetings as to what is happening with the route 85 bridge that crosses I-384. The cement object is a

permanent structure that will help water drain along the bridge and on top of that object there will be deflectors or delineators.

R. Morra stated that completion of construction on the bridge is weather related. There have been calls asking if people can use the trail now even though not all the work is completed. Both the state and the town do not want to allow this due to the potential for safety issues. He said construction is close to being complete and there is excitement for an official ribbon cutting ceremony. In regard to the four-way stop at the I-384 exit ramp at Bolton Center Road, the state has agreed to retain the four-way stop and the trail has been modified and adjusted. Originally, the crosswalk was placed approximately two car lengths behind the stop sign but it has been moved to be at the top of the intersection.

b. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report

Lake Commissioner Kim Welch shared that the water level at the lake is extremely high and it is still quite green. The Bolton Lakes Association is hosting a presentation possibly in November from a Wesleyan professor who did core sampling. DEEP completed the catfish monitoring and electrofishing. Consultant George Knoecklein's report is posted on the Town's website.

c. FY18 Budget

R. Morra started by saying that prior to the state budget being past, there needed to be a freeze on town wide expenditures which impacted the town expenditures to date.

J. Stille reviewed the budget at 29.18% expense compared to 30.45% last year, 29.69% FY16 and 47.51% FY15 (which included encumbered payroll). The tax collector summary through September 30th showed 99.31% collection for personal property for the current year compared to a projected 98%. In regard to motor vehicles, there was a state cap of thirty two mils originally which was changed by the state to thirty nine mils this year and a forty three cap next year.

d. Consider and Act on Call for Special Town Meeting

S. Pierog made a motion, M. Eremita seconded to approve the call for a Special Town Meeting and resolution as presented in Attachment A for December 11, 2017 at 7PM at the Town Hall to consider and act upon approval of the professional agreement between the Board of Education and The Bolton Education Association. Motion unanimously passed - vote 5:0:0

e. Consider and Act on Resolution for Bolton Center School Grant Application

S. Pierog moved, R. Neil seconded, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Bolton Board of Selectmen authorizes the Bolton Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the oil tank removal at the Bolton Center School.

RESOLVED, that the oil tank removal at Bolton Center School is hereby assigned to the standing Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Education.

RESOLVED, that the Bolton Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the oil tank removal at the Bolton Center School.

Motion passed - vote 5:0:0.

f. Consider and Act on Banking Resolution

J. Stille stated that for continuity of operations the resolution would allow for S. Pierog to be an eligible signer of checks and bank documents once she takes office. M. Eremita made a motion, R. Neil seconded to approve the resolution as presented in Attachment B. Motion unanimously passed - vote 5:0:0

g. Consider and Act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests

R. Morra stated that this subject is related to the unemployment fund which has been hit dramatically.

J. Stille continued stating that unemployment claims are higher than usual. The transfer request will only last for another one to two months. S. Pierog moved, M. Eremita seconded to approve the transfer in the fringe benefits budget \$4,000 from the social security line item and \$3,000 from the health insurance line item to the unemployment line item and in the refuse budget a transfer of \$5,000 from the tipping fees line item and \$3,000 from the contract pick up line item to the fringe benefits budget, unemployment line item. Motion unanimously passed - vote 5:0:0.

h. 2018 Meeting Schedule

R. Morra requested the board add item 6h. to the agenda which is to approve the 2018 Board of Selectman meeting dates.

S. Pierog made a motion, G. Marrion seconded to add this item to the agenda. Motion unanimously passed – vote 5:0:0.

M. Eremita moved, R. Neil seconded to approve the following 2018 dates; January 2, February 6, March 7, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 13, and December 4th. Budget workshops: January 16, 23, 30, and February 13, 20 and 27.

Motion unanimously passed – vote 5:0:0.

7. Ongoing Business

a. Subcommittee Reports

R. Morra referenced the Financial and Administration Subcommittee had finalize the draft Tax Deferral Program for the Elderly Ordinance. He said the next step would be to set a public hearing on it.

G. Marrion noticed that Attorney Barger notes included a recommendation to use the agreement which was not included in the draft.

M. Eremita noted that agreement is part of the application for the tax program and is not part of the ordinance.

S. Pierog asked if the subcommittee discussed an asset test in addition to an income test referencing that a person making fifty thousand dollars per year could have a 5 million dollar asset. She also mentioned that there is a five year Bolton resident minimum which she believed to be excessive.

S. Pierog moved, M. Eremita seconded to set the public hearing on the ordinance for December 5, 2017 at 7PM at the Town Hall subject to clarification from the town attorney on items H and I. Motion unanimously passed – vote 5:0:0

b. Properties and Facilities

R. Morra referenced the interviews with engineering firms for the analysis of the Notch Road Municipal Center. BVH Integrated Services was the recommended firm based on several factors. S. Peirog asked about additional possible costs for testing. J. Stille stated that one firm talked about taking core samples but if any testing was necessary it would be an additional cost in any of the firms' proposals.

M. Eremita made a motion to approve contracting with BVH Integrated Services for the project, R. Morra seconded. Motion passed-vote 5:0:0

c. Revenue Sources

J. Stille began by stating we have a little bit of revenue that has come in. The town has received Energize CT grant and applied for a grant for engineering. On the contrary, we do have notice from Eversource that they are seeking a rate increase, received October 31st right after the storm and power was knocked out. The response from many communities was not good. There is potentially a huge number of towns and organizations that will fight the increase. LoCIP funding is also to be released by the state which is to be used for the Town garage expansion. The state swept last year's \$9 million STEAP funds and the grant is zeroed out for this year.

8. First Selectman's Report

a. Recognition of Service

A presentation of awards was given to G. Marrion and R. Neil in recognition for their service to the public.

b. Welcome to Bolton Signs

A list of proposed sites was reviewed for the positioning of several "Welcome to Bolton" signs at the entrance roads to Bolton.

S. Pierog asked if a cost of these signs has been presented.

J. Stille responded by saying yes, costs had been presented at prior BOS meeting. The cost of the smaller sign is \$675.00 while the larger signs are \$1,140.00. The Women's Club is considering covering the cost of the large signs.

M. Eremita moved to approve the sites for the welcome signs. R. Neil seconded. Motion passed – vote 5:0:0.

c. Hebron Road

R. Morra referenced the traffic concerns at Hebron Road and Webster Lane. A letter was received from our engineer looking at some possibilities of improving site lines and brush removal. There has only been one accident at this area on Hebron Road in the past two years and it was not related to Webster Lane.

9. Administrative Officer's Report

a. CRCOG

Capitol Region Council of Governments. In this year's budget, there were funds put aside by the state for crumbling foundations. The most serious issues will be taken care of first, none of which are probably present in the town of Bolton.

b. CCM

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. J. Stille shared that she had met with CCM representatives to review our workers' compensation and property and liability insurance. We have had only one major claim in each over the last couple of years.

c. Emergency Preparedness

J. Stille talked about Eversource and the most recent storm on the 30th and 31st. There were a lot of concerns about their response. She said they could not get ahold of our contact person. The most recent power outage occurred when a tree came down, knocked out the power line and started another pole on fire on I-384. As a result, tree trimming for the area was discussed with Eversource. She also brought up how normally during this time of year there is a state wide annual emergency preparedness drill. Because of budgetary issues, there will just be a table top, not a full blown drill. The statewide table top will be held at the annual meeting for emergency preparedness directors.

10. Appointments

R. Morra mentioned that a replacement needed to be made for Nancy Silverstein who is recently deceased. Pam Sawyer will fill that vacancy until the end of her term in 2019.

M. Eremita made a motion, R. Neil seconded to appoint Pamela Sawyer to fill the term. Motion unanimously passed- vote 5:0:0.

S. Pierog made a motion, M. Eremita seconded, to appoint Susan Depold and Dawn Rousseau land record auditors for the 2017 and 2018 audits. Motion unanimously passed -vote 5:0:0.

M. Emerita made a motion, R. Neil seconded, to appoint John Morianos as Bolton's representative to the Tolland County Mutual Aid Association with a term to June 20, 2019. Motion unanimously passed -vote 5:0:0.

R. Neil made a motion, M. Eremita seconded to reappoint Joyce Stille to the Eastern Highland Health District Board of Directors for a 3 year term. Motion unanimously passed -vote 5:0:0.

S. Pierog made a motion, R. Morra Seconded, to appoint Gwen Marrion to the Trails Committee. Motion unanimously passed -vote 5:0:0.

11. Adjournment

R. Neil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m., M. Eremita seconded. Motion unanimously passed -vote 5:0:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Martin
Board Clerk

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