

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on March 28, 2017, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog. Administrative Officer Joyce Stille was not present. Also present were Lake Commissioner Kim Welch, Paula Meyers, Robert DePietro, Christopher Davey, Adam Teller, Karen Bergin, Brian Miller, Trish Brudz, and reporter Joseph O’Leary.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

As many attendees were present to hear an update on the high school project closeout, G. Marrion moved to address item 7b, Properties and Facilities, following item 2. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

2. Public Comment:

Trish Brudz, 25 Hanover Farms Road, asked about what happens when Bolton meets with other towns, such as in meetings J. Stille has spoken of with the Coventry Town Manager. R. Morra said they discuss things like shared services potential, shared projects, ideas for cost savings, and cooperative development. One of the things in discussion is possible extension of the Bolton sewer line along Route 44 to include Coventry, allowing them to buy into the project.

C. Davey, 21 Mount Sumner Road, made a request that the times and locations of regularly scheduled meetings be provided on the town website. R. Morra apologized and explained the town is currently short staffed due to medical issues. He will make sure it is addressed by the next meeting.

Here the BOS moved to 7b – Properties and Facilities to discuss the high school project.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. March 7, 2017 meeting:** R. Neil moved to approve the minutes. M. Eremita seconded. G. Marrion and S. Pierog provided the following corrections: In the first paragraph of item 2, “Zilewsky” should be “Zelesky.” In the first full paragraph on page 2, “Harding” should be “Harney.” At the top of page 3, “Sumner” should be “Mount Sumner.” In item 4, “Mr.” should be “Ms.” With these amendments; the motion passed 5:0:0.

4. Correspondence: None.

5. Unfinished Business: None.

6. New Business:

- a. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:** R. Morra said the DOT has received comments from the public meeting on the missing link between Notch Pond and Quarry Road. We will be requesting the report and possibly a public informational meeting with DOT officials on all of the projects. The project section already approved to go from the Manchester town line to the pond is expected to move forward soon. R. Morra said there is some concern that the project may be put on hold, as the Governor

has said non-essential funds may be pulled if the state budget proves difficult enough.

- b. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:** R. Morra said that Representative Robin Green held a positive meeting with Town officials, DEEP officials including Fisheries, and Friends of Bolton Lake. Last year's decision was not to stock. This year, the state is proposing to stock at a level of 50% of the number of fish initially proposed. The town is pushing for no stocking to make sure the lake continues to improve.

K. Welch, Lake Commissioner, said the lake is still unstable and green. Restocking would be another variable in an already unpredictable situation. She asked for BOS support in pursuing no stocking and potentially taking the lake off the list, as they will be in a lake management program for a while. R. Morra agreed. The restocking decision will be made in May. G. Marrion asked what the motivation behind restocking was. K. Welch answered that recreational fishing is the main motive. DEEP Fisheries receive funding from licensing. She also said a substantial catfish population remains from the last stocking four years ago and is still reproducing, in addition to bass and other fish. DEEP's proposal has been negotiated from 16 fish per acre down to 5 fish per acre. The lake is 175 acres.

- c. FY 17 Budget Report:** Tax collection is going well.
- d. Consider and Act on Budget Referendum Date: Recommended Date: Recommended Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.-** M. Eremita moved to change the referendum date to Tuesday, May 23, 2017, from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.
- e. Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and/or Appropriation Requests:** None.
- f. Consider and Act on Bolton Center School Resolutions:** M. Eremita moved to approve the following resolutions:
 "Resolved, that as approved at Special Town Meeting, 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 asbestos removal, abatement and tile replacement at the Bolton Center School.
 Resolved, that as approved at Special Town Meeting, the Bolton Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the asbestos removal, abatement and tile replacement at the Bolton Center School."
 R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

7. Ongoing Business:

a. Subcommittee Reports:

Finance and Administration: Work on the fracking waste ordinance continues. The

ordinance bans items and uses of fracking waste that are not approved by DEEP.

b. Properties and Facilities:

High School Project: R. Morra reviewed the closeout process and status. The state will withhold 5% of what is considered the remaining portion – what to reimburse town for. After closeout, the state will review and examine all documents and determine eligible versus ineligible items. Most should be eligible but there are some ineligible items. The percentage, originally estimated at 52%, varies due to a different number of students coming from Hartford and space standards. The number of students has increased, so rate will increase by a few percentage points. Another variable is how many items the state approves as eligible.

There is a question about a change form that dealt with furniture expenses. Without it, the state cannot determine which of those items are eligible. He said they have contacted Gilbane, the contractor at risk who should have functioned as clerk of the works and signed off on all forms. The company is required to have copies of all documents for several years, which are kept in Iron Mountain, an offsite storage facility. Their staff will pull the documents.

P. Meyers asked if Gilbane is charging for the documents. They are not. T. Brudz asked if the related email found in archives from former Superintendent Paul K. Smith was of any help. R. Morra said yes, that is what narrowed down the time frame of the document.

J. O'Leary asked what the potential lost amount is. R. Morra said \$475,000 is the full budget amount. That amount, multiplied by what percentage of that turns out to be eligible, multiplied by a 52%-54% reimbursement rate, will be the final total minus any ineligibles.

Brian Miller, 88 Highridge, asked if there were original assumptions made on the percentage rate the town would receive. R. Morra said yes, the town originally based their estimate on an assumption of 52%. This depends on a number of factors such as an increased number of Hartford students, the portion of items deemed eligible, and the size of the school.

C. Davey said that from discussions at the BOE, he understood there to be two components being looked for – the missing change order and documentation. Together those total \$890,000; this suggests the amount of reimbursement which could be lost is more than \$455,000.

R. Morra said both documents are to be retrieved by Gilbane.

G. Marrion asked to clarify whether the total amount of reimbursement at risk was closer to \$450,000, or \$475,000. R. Morra said \$475,000 is the approximate total of the FFE budget. \$450,000 is the approximate, combined total of reimbursement dependent on the two items being retrieved.

Here the BOS returned to the regular agenda order with item 4.

Heritage Farm: S. Pierog reported that the contractor requested payment on the completion of the additional work on the barn (milk room). The contractor will be reimbursed on all items on the punch list except the painting which cannot be done until warmer weather. An issue was found with the milk roof support during inspection. S. Pierog will bring the repair plan and estimate to the BOS.

c. **Revenue Sources:** None.

8. First Selectman's Report:

- a. **Board of Ethics:** R. Morra reported that the Board of Ethics met this week. They are establishing operating procedures and a schedule. Bob Lessard, a former Selectman who was instrumental in the Board's creation, is the Chair. S. Pierog noted some correspondence was circulated among that board with inconsistencies regarding term limits. R. Morra said he will make sure that is corrected tomorrow.
- b. **STEAP Grant:** The BOS discussed reapplying for grant funds to use towards a community sewage/septic system that for the municipal buildings in the Town center. J. Stille and R. Morra are working with Town staff and P. Carson and on the grant. S. Pierog asked that the final grant application be circulated to the Board of Selectmen as well. G. Marrion moved to authorize First Selectman Robert Morra to apply for a STEAP grant for the purpose of a community waste disposal system to further expand accommodation capability of core town facilities. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

9. Appointments:

- a. **Tree Warden:** R. Neil moved to appoint Lance Dimock as Tree Warden for a term of one year. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

10. Executive Session: M. Eremita moved to go into executive session to discuss:

- a. **Land Acquisition:**
b. **Administrator's Mid-Year Review**

R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0. Executive session began at 7:50 p.m.
Executive session ended at 8:23P.M.

11. Adjournment: R. Neil moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24P.M. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

PLEASE SEE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.