

Bolton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
7:05PM, Tuesday, December 5, 2017
Bolton Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road
Minutes

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on December 5, 2017, at the Bolton Town Hall, with the First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. In attendance were: Selectman Nicole Sullivan, Robert Morra, and Michael Eremita; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille and several members of the public.

- 1. Call to order:** S. Pierog called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM and everyone rose for the pledge of allegiance.

S. Pierog acknowledged Edward Steele IV who is working on a civics requirement for a Boy Scout badge.

- 2. Public Comment:** Barbara Amodio of Volpi Road, Bike Walk Bolton, wanted to congratulate the new Selectman and explain the mission of this organization which is to advocate for the expansion of safe, practical and accessible means for moving around our community including biking, walking and the handicap and shared information with the board. One of the initiatives that was started was to put an infrared trail counter. The latest counter information showed 23,210 between 12/20/2016 through 10/23/2017.

Ray Hardy of Brandy Street explained that the Connecticut Bobcat Project is currently collecting data by placing tracking collars on them to learn their whereabouts around the State. They are also placing tags on the ear and getting DNA. One collar was successfully placed on a kitten in Town. R. Hardy would like permission to access Town Property on Warner Swamp and new section Town property that was formally State owned of Route 6.expressway to continue the research.

Paula Meyers of Country Club Road explained her disappointment with Liz Krueggar's resignation. The appearance in her opinion is that she was holding the seat for the Republican Party. She requested that the Board consider Kim Miller for the vacant seat since she was the tied vote.

Jim Aldrich of Hanover Farms Road supports the current vacant Fire Marshal position to be assigned to the current Building Official Jim Rupert. He stated that this would make it much easier and faster to get a building permit by dealing with one official.

Adam Teller of Elizabeth Road wanted to ask the board to take one of two steps to resolve the vacancy on the board. First, because of the tie vote Mr. Teller feels the vacancy should go to Kim Miller. Secondly, would be to go out to special election if parties cannot agree on one person.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**
 - A.** November 13, 2017 Special Three Board Meeting, M. Eremita moved to approve the minutes, R. Morra seconded. Motion passed – vote 3:0:1 N. Sullivan abstained.
 - B.** November 14, 2017 Meeting, R. Morra moved to approve the minutes, M. Eremita seconded. Motion passed – vote 4:0:0

- C. November 27, 2017 Special Three Board Meeting, M. Eremita moved to approve the minutes, R. Morra to second. Motion passed – vote 4:0:1 N. Sullivan abstained.

- 4. **Correspondence:** An email from Lieutenant John Walcek with the Wareham MA Police Dept. spoke kindly of Fire Chief Bruce Dixon and the Volunteer Fire Department.

S. Pierog read the letter of resignation from the Board of Selectman submitted by Elizabeth S. Kruegar to be effective immediately.

S. Pierog also read a letter given to Administrator Joyce Stille from the Republican Nominating Committee nominating Susan Pike for the replacement of the vacant seat held by Elizabeth Kruegar on the Board of Selectman.

- 5. **Unfinished Business:** None

- 6. **New Business:**

- A. **Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:** Reminder that on December 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM the DOT will be holding a public hearing at Town Hall on the Charter Oak Greenway. J. Stille explained that the maps can be viewed on the Towns website or at Town Hall.

- B. **Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:** Kim Welch reported on one update from last month that a professor and their students from Wesleyan University were scheduled on November 30, 2017 to report on the core sediments they took this summer on lower Bolton lakes. This meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, December 7, 2017 7 PM at Newhoca on Middle Lower Lake. They will be presenting their results and research.

- C. **FY18 Budget:** Joyce Stille explained that the town was at 37.76% expensed at this point versus last year at this time was 36.29% expensed. Since the last meeting the Governor further cut funding to the town by \$241,457. J. Stille explained that because of the State deficit status they will be going into a special session to come up with a deficit reduction management plan which could cause further reductions to the Town.

J. Stille discussed the Tax Collector's summary through October.

- D. **Consider and Act on Tax Deferral Program for the Elderly Ordinance:** A motion was made by R. Morra to have a special meeting on December 19, 2017 at 7 PM location to be determined to discuss and act on this ordinance, seconded by M. Eremita. Motion passed-vote 4:0:0

- E. **Consider and Act on Budget Referendum:** M. Eremita made a motion to set the Budget Referendum to be on May 22, 2018 at Town Hall from 6 AM to 8 PM, R. Morra seconded. Motion passed-vote 4:0:0

- F. **Consider and Act on Deputy First Selectman:** A motion was made by R. Morra to defer the action on this until there is a five member board, M. Eremita seconded. The motion passed – vote 4:0:0

- G. **FY19 Budget:** J. Stille explained that other than salary increases, budget line items are expected to come in with zero dollar increases. Capital requests were also due today.

- H. **Consider and Act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests:** J. Stille states there are none tonight but will have one next month for unemployment.

7. Ongoing Business:

- A. Subcommittee Reports:** The minutes from the Human Resources Subcommittee were discussed. A motion was made by R. Morra to set wages as follows:
Other than Board of Selectman the wage increase for full time nonunion supervisor staff will be up to 2 ½% and 3% for non-supervisor based on individual performance reviews. Any increase for the Board of Selectman wages needs to be approved before the fiscal year or by the beginning of the fiscal year and the wage increase for non-union part time position be approved as in the subcommittee minutes.
The motion was seconded by N. Sullivan. The motion passed – vote 4:0:0
- B. Properties and Facilities:** S. Pierog congratulated the Heritage Farm Commission who entered a tree into the Bolton Congregation Church “Festival of Trees” and won 2nd place rewarding them with \$200.00.
Joyce Stille spoke about the High School audit. The auditor noted a few items that were pre referendum that will not qualify for funding. Also, under technology the town put in for licenses and maintenance agreements that will not be eligible for funding either. They are continuing to work and it may be May or June before they are finished. She also stated that the Transfer Station will be open on January 6, 2018 from 8 AM – 12 PM or a weather date of January 13, 2018.
- C. Revenue Sources:** The Town was given a name of a person from the Connecticut Department of Housing who will facilitate those homeowners with crumbling foundations. S. Pierog states that there is an approved casualty loss deduction on income tax but to contact a person tax advisor in case there are changes to that. J. Stille stated there will be two sources of funding for testing for crumbling foundations. One is State money that Capital Region Council of Governments is overseeing. There is information on their website. The other source will be the approved joint application for a small cities development block grant. We are waiting for funds to be awarded; however this funding will be based on income.

8. First Selectman’s Report:

A. Subcommittee Appointments:

S. Pierog stated the three subcommittee appointments are as follows:

- Human Resources – N. Sullivan and R. Morra
- Facility and Public Safety – N. Sullivan and M. Eremita
- Finance and Administration – M. Eremita and Vacancy,

S. Pierog also stated that she will defer CAPA appointments until the next meeting. S. Pierog stated her intent will be to continue three board meetings rather than the 2+2+2 meetings.

- B. CCM Conference:** S. Pierog stated that she, Joyce Stille and 6 staff members attended the CCM Conference at Foxwoods. Some workshops attended were on shared services and Economic Development.
- C. Special Town Meeting:** S. Pierog stated the special town meeting is December 11, 2017 at 7 PM for approval of the teachers’ contract and information on that contract is out on the Town’s website.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

- A. Nathan Hale Greenway:** This is the former CT owned Route 6 land that Bolton with the Town of Coventry had obtained a grant. Work was done to see what kind of a trail could be created through the land. There should be a public informational session in mid to late January. The Town of Bolton is trying to coordinate with the Town of Coventry to have one informational in each Town that residents could go to either presentation to mirror each other.
- B. Joint Economic Development with the Town of Coventry:** There have been some joint efforts with the Town of Coventry to try to get some Economic Development into the Route 44 Corridor. With both Towns contributing to the infrastructure investment both towns would then share tax revenue that would be generated.. Some conceptual plans have been developed but not set in stone. These plans were presented to the meeting attendees.

A motion was made by M. Eremita to allow R. Hardy permission to catch Bobcats on town owned property including Warner Swamp and Route 6, seconded by R. Morra. The motion passed – vote 4:0:0. R. Hardy is to notify J. Stille when and where this will be done.

10. Appointments:

Cheryl Udin of Keeney Dr and Chairman of the Fire Commission recommend that Jim Rupert be appointed interim Fire Marshal through June 30, 2018.

A motion was made by M. Eremita to approve the appointment of Jim Rupert of Ashford the interim Fire Marshal for Bolton through June 30, 2018, seconded by R. Morra. The motion passed-vote 4:0:0

S. Pierog and J. Stille discussed the procedures of replacing the vacancy on the Board of Selectman.

R. Morra made a motion to postpone any appointment of a replacement for Liz Kruegar to the special meeting on December 19, 2017 at 7 PM. The motion passed – 4:0:0

- 11. Adjournment:** A motion was made by M. Eremita to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM, R. Morra seconded. The motion passed –vote 4:0:0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Bushnell

Lori Bushnell, Substitute Board Clerk

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