

Minutes of the Special Town Meeting
Town of Bolton
January 25, 2017

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut, was held at the Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road, in the Town of Bolton, Connecticut, on Wednesday January 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Present were: First Selectman Robert Morra; Selectmen Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Superintendent Kristin Heckt and approximately 48 Town residents and school officials.

Town Meeting Moderator Catherine Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. . Mrs. Peterson then read the first paragraph of the call of the meeting. Joyce Stille then made a motion to waive the reading of the Call of meeting due to its length and since there were copies made available to the public.

Motion: Joyce Stille

Second: Cheryl Udin

Vote: Motion Carried unanimously

Mrs. Peterson then gave a brief synopsis of the Resolution to be voted on. Ms. Stille then made a motion to dispense with the reading of the resolution due to its length and because copies we made available to the public.

Motion: Joyce Stille

Second: Robert Morra

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Mrs. Peterson then read the Return of Notice. She then called for a motion to accept the resolution as presented.

Motion: Katherine Gallé

Second: Richard Tuthill

Ms. Peterson then opened the floor to discussion.

Mr. Tuthill opened with questions regarding the natural gas component of the project and expressed concerns about the payoff schedule for the bonding. Mr. Morra addressed the question and explained in more detail the reasoning and costs behind the conversion to gas. He also related that the new debt for this project would take the place of the retiring debt. Ms. Stille added that any savings from the project would be used to remove oil tanks that won't be used or need replacement.

Mr. Ron Alleman had questions about how this would impact property taxes for taxpayers. Mr. Morra again addressed the question explaining that the retiring debt would essentially be replaced by the new debt of this project and that taxes would not be affected.

Eileen Jennings had a question regarding additional costs such as the replacement of oil tanks and wanted to know why this was not budgeted for earlier. Mr. Morra explained the life span of oil tanks and that they would be budgeted for in the year of their replacement rather than setting aside a particular portion in the capital budget for these items since there is only so much money available to draw from.

Mr. Pete Braddock expressed concerns about increased spending and the reason for asking for money at this time and not at referendum. Also, he asked about the available funds remaining, if any, and what they would be used for. Mr. Morra addressed the questions by stating that the additional money would go towards items in the capital budget related to school projects. Money has to be used where allocated. Ms. Stille then addressed the question regarding the request for funds at this time rather than at the budget referendum. It is not part of the general budget and is done separately by town meeting and then funded by the bonding process.

Robert Gallé then addressed the meeting as an individual as not as a member from the Board of Finance. He stated that even though he voted against the borrowing, as a member of the BOF, he also stated that the work needed to be done. He likened this to a home equity loan and that the money would be used as needed and that taxes would not be impacted entirely. He also explained that the town meeting is the process used to address this type of spending since it is required by Town Charter. Mr. Gallé also stated that he would be voting no on this resolution.

Mr. Alleman expressed concerns about the vote taken at this meeting being the deciding factor.

Mrs. Meyers had questions about the field study and if this would be addressed in the future. Mr. Morra expressed concerns about what State funding would be in relation to other projects that need to be addressed. The town will not be moving forward on any of the field repairs until we know what the funding is. Superintendent Kristin Heckt stated that the safety concerns were discussed but that the project would cost approximately \$2 million dollars and that the town wouldn't be able to afford taking on that debt load at this time.

Mr. Richard Treat expressed his concern about the notice of the meeting and the bidding process lacking funds to accomplish the project. He also felt that the Temporary Public Building Committee should be the committee handling the project. He expressed concerns regarding the digging up of pavement in relation to the natural gas lines. Mr. Morra addressed the concern about the new pavement and the gas line. He assured Mr. Treat that they are not in the same area. Also, the school has a grounds committee that will oversee the school portion of the project. Ms. Stille stated that this is not a repair or replacement so it does not require the Temporary Public Building Committee to oversee the project. The town attorney and Bond Counsel were consulted and confirmed this Charter language.

Mr. Tuthill asked how much it would cost to recondition the track and fields at the schools. Superintendent Heckt couldn't say what that figure would be. Mr. Morra stated that there was town and school staff that could be utilized to work on the fields.

Mr. Peter Lowry asked what would happen if this resolution didn't pass. Mrs. Peterson stated that the boards would then get together again but that the town was committed to the bond figure currently under consideration if passed.

Mr. Braddock wanted to know if the excess funds left over could go to other projects. Ms. Stille stated that they are required to utilize any excess funds towards Bolton Center school projects and that they can't be used for any other town projects or needs. Ms. Heckt expressed her concerns about State cuts in funding that could affect the school and stated that we needed to get in line to receive those funds while they were still available.

Ms. Martine Skoog expressed concerns about the current process of having the town meeting for this appropriation rather than bringing it to referendum. Mrs. Peterson reiterated that this is not part of the school budget and this falls under the capital improvements budget that comes under the scope of a town meeting. Ms. Stille clarified that Town, School, Capital Reserve/Improvement and debt services are all included in the single budget figure that is presented at the budget referendum. Capital projects are only passed at town meeting or separate referendum and are not presented at Budget referendums.

Mrs. Katie DeRosiers moved to close debate, seconded by Mr. Peter VanDine. Mrs. Peterson then asked those that were not electors to go to the back of the room.

Richard Tuthill interjected, with a point of order, to vote by show of hands.

Motion to close debate was carried by a vote of 22 to 20 in favor.

Mrs. Peterson then called for a vote on the following Resolution. Mr. Tuthill, as a point of order, requested a hand count vote.

INCREASING THE \$340,000 APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016/17 BOARD OF EDUCATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AT BOLTON CENTER SCHOOL, AND THE AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE BONDS OR NOTES AND TEMPORARY NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION, BY \$606,500, FOR AN AGGREGATE APPROPRIATION AND AGGREGATE BORROWING AUTHORIZATION OF \$946,500 EACH; AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED,

A. That the Town of Bolton increase the THREE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$340,000) appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2016/17 Board of Education Facility Improvements Program at Bolton Center School and the authorization to issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in the same amount to finance the appropriation, as approved at the Annual Town Meeting held May 17, 2016, by SIX HUNDRED SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$606,500), for an aggregate appropriation of NINE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$946,500) and an

aggregate borrowing authorization of the same amount to finance the increased appropriation; and that the scope of the appropriation be expanded to include the following: (i) reconstruction of the parking lots, including related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$236,390); (ii) carpet removal, floor tile asbestos abatement and carpet and/or tile replacement for the K-3, first floor and second floor building sections, including related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$140,110); (iii) building boilers and water heater replacement and conversion to natural gas, including related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$230,000); and (iv) to the extent of available funds, replacement of the fireproof stage curtain, cafeteria kitchen stove, energy management system and lockers. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition, installation and construction costs, related work and improvements, equipment, materials, architectural/engineering services, consulting fees, testing costs, survey costs, legal and administrative costs related to the projects, costs related to any application for and acceptance of available grants, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the projects and may reduce or modify the scope of the projects, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the projects as so reduced or modified; and is further authorized to delegate to the Temporary Public Building Commission all or any portion of such authority with respect to any of such projects;

B. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The First Selectman and the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

C. That the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer, the Public Building Commission and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the projects and to issue bonds and notes and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Vote: 30 to 12 in favor of the Resolution.

On a motion by Cheryl Udin, seconded by Peter Van Dine, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth C. Waters

Elizabeth C. Waters
Town Clerk