

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JOINT MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE  
BOARD OF FINANCE & BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting with the Board of Finance and Board of Education on Tuesday, October 25, 2021 with First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. Also in attendance were Selectmen Robert Morra, Mike Eremita, Robert DePietro, Kim Miller and Interim Administrative Officer James Rupert.

Board of Finance members: Richard Tuthill, Robert Munroe, Emily Bradley, Kristen Gourley, Ross Lally, Charlie Danna,

And Board of Education members: Scott Rich, Andrew Broneill, Ben Davies, Susan Pike, Chris Davey, Anne Decker, Rhea Klein and Superintendent Kristin Heckt.

**1. Call to Order.**

S. Pierog called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comment.**

None.

**3. Discussion on School Cafeteria Fund.**

S. Pierog shared that she and J. Rupert had a conversation yesterday with K. Heckt about the school cafeteria fund and some concerns they had. K. Heckt had already shared this info with the Board of Ed and will now share with the rest of us.

K. Heckt shared a presentation and stated that in terms of the food services just for everyone's knowledge currently the Bolton Public Schools food service program is a self-sustaining fund and has been since its inception which was long before she arrived in Bolton. She has made the BOE aware for the last several years about our concern about its ability to remain a self-sustaining fund. Having said that, last year's information shows our projected revenue of \$267,068 dollars. Our actual revenue was \$177,643 dollars which was \$89,425 dollars less than projected and I will offer that that had everything to do with COVID. So, this was our projected budget and this is what we received less. So, then we get into what our actual expenditures were versus our projected and you'll see that we spent 104,549 dollars less than we had anticipate spending. Again, I will say all directly related to COVID.

What I am happy to share with you is that our amazing food service staff served 16,340 breakfasts and 35,653 lunches. Last year, you may or may not be aware but the federal government offered a program by which food services throughout the country and certainly in the State of Connecticut offered meals to any child 18 or younger and whether they went to school or not and could avail themselves of a free breakfast and a free lunch. We started last year with a beginning fund balance of \$44,364 dollars. We had a surplus last year \$2,713 dollars leaving us with an ending fund balance of \$47,078 dollars. I just want to give kudos again to our food service staff despite the numerous challenges uh that we face throughout the year. They did an absolute amazing job feeding our students.

I'd also like to call to everyone's attention in case you're not aware of this that we have minimum wage increase requirements that statutorily have to go into effect. It went from twelve to thirteen dollars this August. Next July first it will go to fourteen dollars and the following June first it will go to fifteen dollars. In addition, for this year again, the US Department of Agriculture has approved the continuation of the seamless summer option; which makes school breakfast and lunch free for all children 18 years and younger; and this federally mandated benefit will be in effect until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, which was the same exact option that was in effect last year. However, I think that there was a lot of information shared with the federal government about the fact that food services were in effect in struggling and potentially losing money in a lot of places. So, for this year the feds have raised the reimbursable rates that we receive. I am not certain that those rates are going to remain next year. We have no word on that either way. I wouldn't be surprised if it went back to the former rates for 2020 – 2021. However, having said all that with these increases last September we received \$6562.59. This September due to the increase in rates and also, we have a lot more students taking the free lunches; we have twenty eight thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and ninety seven cents. So, you know a twenty one thousand increase just for one month from last year to this year. It's too early to tell quite frankly how COVID is going to impact the program this year but you know I do believe that the continuation of the free meals for all is a great benefit to the program and certainly to our community.

So, having said that we have a projected revenue this year of \$270,000 and projected expenses of \$248,550. So, we are projecting a projected ending surplus of the year of \$21,450 dollars and a projected ending fund balance of \$68,528 dollars which should all this play out will put us in good shape for next year because we do have wage increases that mandatorily we have to increase sizably compared to what we would normally do for a wage increase. So having said that though, hard to know what next year is going to bring for reimbursement rates and hard to know where we will end up. This is more of an fyi for everyone. To keep on your radar screen as we move forward and then over the next several years.

B. Morra asked is the federal program, does it go through the summer of 2022 or up to the June 20<sup>th</sup>?

K. Heckt: As of right now it is through June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2022. So, basically the end of school.

K. Gourley: just for some clarification you talked about the minimum wage increase. You were talking about specifically I guess the servers that we have working this Program? They're all receiving minimum wage?

K. Heckt: Not all. It depends on how long you've been with us. We had to hire a number of new workers this year so we couldn't have workers that have been working for us for years making less right than people who were starting out

S. Pierog: For those of you who may not be aware if the reimbursement lags behind the expenses the town lends the school lunch program cash; and looking at our reimbursements from last year and our expenditures for this year raised some concerns. We were very happy to learn that the reimbursement rate had increased.

**4. Discussion on budget and related items for the current fiscal year, next year, and subsequent years, including:**

**A. Revenues and**

**B. Expenditures**

S. Pierog: What I am giving you now are unaudited numbers which means once the auditor gets in here, they are subject to change. We actually had a surplus of revenues of just under \$70,000 dollars. So, that means we brought in more actual revenue than what was on our budget. So, the revenue that we're projecting for this fiscal year however, is less than what we actually took in last year. So, that could be a problem going forward. Our expenditures are also down though. Based on where we are now and we have not yet closed this fiscal year due to some bills that are still arriving in from several departments unfortunately. It looks like the town is going to return about just a little under \$680 thousand dollars. We had promised \$316. So, that amount is just about doubled. The Board of Education return as of right now looks like about \$960,000 plus. Which is about \$492,000 more than they had promised as well. So, all of those things indicate that we may have again, this is a big may, have an unaudited potential cash surplus of about \$850,000 this year. I just want everybody to keep in mind that these are unaudited numbers and they are subject to substantial change; but the good news is that we ended up much better than we had originally thought we did and I think kudos go to Town staff and Board of Education and the BOE staff for keeping expenditures in check and making this happen. I know there were some times when all of us felt we weren't going to make it and we did. So, thank you to all of you.

Moving on to fiscal year 2022. The property tax collection reports a 90.94% collection rate of personal property and real estate. That's slightly less than where we were two years ago, but ahead of where we were last year. Last year there was a postponement of the due date of taxes so motor vehicles are at a 71.5 percent collection and again we budget at 98% collection being what's in our budget; and what we're showing here is the collection rate of what is budgeted. In motor vehicle at 71.05 percent is actually lower than normal. The good news there is that motor vehicle registrations are no longer being postponed. So, in order to re-register their vehicles uh motor vehicle taxes are going to have to be paid; so, we anticipate more collection there; and as most of you know the motor vehicle supplement doesn't go out until January. So, we should know what the grand list is for vehicles sometime in December.

We have a revenue concern with the decrease in Columbia students this year. It's going to leave us with a deep overall decrease in town revenue of just under \$18,000; but more importantly there's a decrease of almost \$72,000 in the tuition fund that goes towards paying debt. So, we're going to have to do some planning and rearranging of our budget to cover that deficit.

The other revenue concerns, three months into the into the fiscal year are library collections for overdue books, that's not a huge amount but it is basically running very close to zero at this point; senior donations, again not a large amount but also running very close to zero; and interest where we had hoped to see an increase in rates and that has not happened yet.

C.Danna: In these collection rates that we have here it was my understanding that there might be a separate billing because of the mill rate change. Are those numbers included in there or are they not or how's that working out?

S. Pierog: There will be a separate billing in January for the difference between last year's mill rate and this year's mill rate. The numbers that you're seeing reflect the actual grand list at the current mill rate. A very large number of our residents chose to pay in full. If you want to pay in full the amount is out on the town's website; you can click and pay it right now or you can wait until it's billed in January. Last I talked to the tax collector she indicated that she thought somewhere between 60 and 75% of the people had already paid in full.

R.Munroe: The combined numbers of what the tuition would go toward as far as debt and then regular town revenue about \$88 - \$89,000. I assume that represents I think eight kids. Eight less Columbia kids and I was wondering if Kristen might have some ideas put a little personality to that. Is that like did we have the like the graduating seniors that they equal like eight and we didn't get any new kids or whatever?

K. Heckt: So, we certainly lost some graduating seniors and we had very few students select Bolton High School as a choice for incoming and you know we have received some feedback about you know our athletic facilities compared to the athletic facilities of one of the other high schools and also noted that this year's incoming ninth grade is very small. I think I shared those numbers with the Board of Finance during budget deliberations. We have a number of years where their class sizes are much, much smaller than they were in previous years. So, that is also a factor.

R.Morra: Those numbers on the student population from Columbia, it looks like long term seems like a continual drop it looks like that trend is moving forward at least for the near future and so I guess we're simply going to have to start factoring that in our future budgets. I understand that part about the difference in athletic fields we've always had that. I think the bigger thing out there now is their drop in population. I've been watching that trend in that particular town, that curve is just being continual that's an issue that we're going to be facing going forward from now on.

K. Heckt: Yep, I think you're right Bob. It's definitely something that we're going to have to be mindful of for sure moving forward.

R.Munroe: Did we have a similar impact on the choice program too?

K. Heckt: Yes, our numbers are less than we had projected. You know I think that the Choice situation is a little different in that I think the pandemic has had a direct impact on parents' willingness to put their little kids on a bus for an hour to come out to Bolton in the midst of a pandemic. I also think that there are well I know that there are several other school districts who are now also taking choice students who are within our geographical region that we pull from the Harford area. It's now divided into four regions. Whereas going back about five years anyone in Hartford no matter where you lived could select Bolton as a choice. Now it is only in region two that is a select region within Hartford. So, that is also something that is playing in. We have three other districts that are within our area that are now also taking choice students.

### **C. Debt Service.**

S. Pierog: We currently have three bond issues outstanding. We have the bond that we refunded in 2021, that is scheduled to be paid off in May 2032. We have a 2017 bond that will be paid off in August of 2026; and we have the 2017 refunded bond which will be paid off in August 2030. The 2021 refunded bond is the original 2012 high school bond and the fire truck bond and the 2017 refunded bond is a portion of the 2010 high school bond. So, moving down the page in fiscal year 22, we expect to pay \$805,000 in debt and \$266,000 plus in interest. The portion of the debt that we originally expected to be paid by tuition was 560 and the portion that is projected

to be paid with the decrease in students is \$318,000. So, we're facing a fairly large deficit there and then if we move to the following year; total debt payments will be \$825,000, interest will be \$244,000 and the portion of debt based on prior plans that should be paid by tuition is \$655,000. So, we would need 51 students to cover the high school bond debt if the per student costs remain the same. Kristin or Andrew I believe the current contract with Colombia goes on at least through fiscal year 23 is that correct?

K. Heckt: I believe it goes until 2030 or 2028. I'll have to pull it up but we signed another 10-year deal. Yeah 10 years from a couple or three years ago. Yeah, I'll pull it up.

S. Pierog: The thing of it is with tuition students dropping we're going to be faced with paying more of the debt from tax revenue on a going forward basis. Any questions on the debt?

R. Munroe: So, those are net numbers through the end of the bonds, right? So, this is going to come out on an annual basis to be something much less than that of course?

S. Pierog: Not until we drop, interest will drop slightly, but until the principal payments will remain the same until one of the bonds drop off.

R. Munroe: All right these are the annual tuition I mean the annual principal and interest payments. Yes, okay I'm sorry thank you.

K. Heckt: The contract goes through 2030.

S. Pierog: Are there tuition increases or is it flat?

K. Heckt: There are tuition increases it's based on the I think it's the NIAC or something or it may be one percent depending upon which of the two but I can try to pull that up.

S. Pierog: I don't think that's necessary but as long as we know that there are some increases in there, I think that's great.

#### **D. Capital Improvements**

Moving on to capital improvements; the Board of Selectmen has four that are imminent. Town office and meeting space. We have some ideas from UCONN students but at this point they are still at the idea stage. We have the Notch Road Municipal Center; where we did not renew the lease of the YMCA. The Board of Education has generously agreed to host the after-school program; and if we can move the finance folks down into the space from the "Y" that takes some of the

urgency out of moving them when we have to take down the rest of Notch Road; but town office space remains a priority. We have a fire truck on the referendum. If that passes that will go forward and the fire department has asked for an addition to the firehouse which we will be continuing to explore. At this point I have no idea what the dollar amount is of these but I expect it's fairly large.

K. Gourley: Yeah, the Y program, so are we going to be taking those funds in? I mean I'm assuming probably comparable to the same cost that they were paying parents for paying for the Y?

S. Pierog: I don't know the answer to that. Can somebody from the Board of Ed Comment?

K. Heckt: We never got that far in any discussions that we had with them after I spoke with Jim it was determined that for now you know there was no urgent need for them to move and that we'd be talking about it later this year once you know we got to the point where they would be moving. So, they weren't ready because there's a lot of pieces they have to do in order to move with the state. So, stay tuned.

K. Gourley: I guess my question is that if we are going to be taking on that program that will have to be accounted for as for additional revenues, correct?

S. Pierog: Well, they currently pay rent to the town. So, it would probably be right pocket left pocket on the revenue it would still go into the town coffers.

K. Gourley; Okay, as long as we're not losing against money or revenue okay thank you.

S. Pierog: Their rent payments are not significant let's put it that way. Okay, members of the Board of Selectmen did I leave anything off our list that's why the other is there.

R. Morra: You know there there's so much on the table there that it's pretty overwhelming. I know on the one thing that we both had talked about both the education and us was the athletic field and that's also floating out there too. I'm sure Kristin and Andrew probably got that on there their comment portion.

K. Miller??: Yeah, with the track that you're talking about that the track on the soccer field yeah

K. Heckt: As well as the roof at center school.

S. Pierog: Andrew do you want to talk about the Board of Education projects or

designate someone else to do that?

A.Broneill: What are we looking for just an overview.

S. Pierog: Well, we've got center school roof, the solar carports at the high school, the high school soccer field and track improvements and then anything I've left off my list.

A.Broneill: Uh, the carport I never really knew anything about that it wasn't even being run by the Board of Education. It was a town thing wasn't that?

S. Pierog: Well, it was sort of a joint project.

??It wasn't ever discussed as a Board of Ed item.

S. Pierog: Hmm sorry, my issue for having thought that.

M. Eremita: I think that was a presentation that was made to us. I don't think the Board of Ed was in on that presentation and to my knowledge that was I don't remember there being a cost factor to us on that.

S. Pierog: There is not. It is just a project that will potentially go on. It's currently out for bidding and I know the Energy Committee is meeting tonight to talk about the solar car ports at the high school and they are on the agenda.

M. Eremita: I knew there was a there's a hold up on it too because it's a small project and they didn't get the larger project they were hoping for so that may not even go forward.

S. Pierog: That's correct it is currently out to bid so we may or may not see action on that, but you are correct there was no cost to the town.

R. DePietro: Wasn't there ac involved?

S.Pierog: Air conditioning at the Bolton Center School?

?: So, we have right now I mean it's going to potentially be tied into the roof Project. We have a study being performed right now by a mechanical engineer looking into the feasibility of upgrading the hvac systems at BCS and the feasibility of adding new air conditioning. That report we hope to have in the next few weeks via draft of the report to have a recommendation on what it would take to do and cost implications. With that report the intent is to then make a decision on direction to go and bundle that with the BCS roof project because likely it will be involving rooftop equipment at the same time. So, we're trying to get things in

order so we can really develop the correct project scope good for that. I just would like to add that being in the position of planning this roof project now is advantageous it would be horribly unadvantageous for us to be bidding that project right now. The building materials in general are being horribly affected by the supply chain problem. Roofing is for whatever reason is particularly being affected. Roofing products are as much as a 12-month long lead right now. Current projects cannot get roofing materials on the job site.

M. Eremita: It is a perfect time right now to plan; because you have the time and you have no rush.

S. Rich: We'd be paying a huge premium right now if we were bidding that project.

M. Eremita: Right and I think you're extremely smart to plan the two projects together because retrofitting one for the other.

S. Rich: You want it done once right and you know the last thing you want to do is put a new hole in a brand-new roof.

M. Eremita: Absolutely, you know it's the smart way to go yeah.

R. Morra: Scott, is it the ac rooftop is that doing the whole second floor?

S. Rich: The study is looking at feasibility for doing the entire building. It's looking at different options. We'll know better when we start seeing the recommendations. It's a two-part; it's doing an hvac assessment and upgrade or heating and ventilating assessment upgrade and then also the option of putting in air conditioning.

M. Eremita: Is the center school hot air right now?

S. Rich: No, it isn't its radiation.

M. Eremita: So, it means it means duct work for everything it's not just tying into an hvac system.

S. Rich: Correct.

K. Heckt: I'll just offer everybody it just gets warmer it doesn't get cooler.

M. Eremita: Oh yes. global warming hits the center school hard.

R. Morra: The second floor is easy to do in retrofit. You know you're just dropping everything just at lower levels. Are they looking at doing a combination like second floor duct work in first floor those individual units?

S. Rich: Right now, we're looking for to them to make the recommendation.

R. Morra: Okay so they're looking at everything's on the table?

S. Rich: Yes.

S. Pierog: And we have the high school soccer field and track improvements. I just wanted to check in and make sure that we are still from the Board of Ed side on the same wavelength that we've been on all along that the soccer fields are our first priority and the track is a very close second? Andrew anybody on the Board of Ed.

A.Broneill: I think I think that's fair to say. We have an estimate for the entire project. I don't have in front of me; but and if you were to bid the project you could certainly bid it in you know option a and option b. But you'd want to do as much prep work for the track if you weren't going to do the actual track so you don't have to tear anything up.

K. Heckt: As an advocate for kids, I feel compelled to say I have track athletes running track and doing field activities on the pavement in front of Bolton High School. So, I just want to put that out there for everybody's knowledge and we're talking 70 to 90 kids.

S. Pierog: Wow is that the highest participation sport at the high school now?

K. Heckt: Not in cross country. Every year more and more kids want to participate. So., I just want everybody to be acutely aware of the profound interest we have with our student athletes and our incredible lack of any kind of facilities that really are safe and appropriate.

S. Pierog: Okay, um is there anything else on the Board of Ed's major project list that we should be aware of Andrew?

A.Broneill: um, I don't think so. We were going to have our CAPA meeting next week so unless there's anything that I'm not unaware of but those are the big ones.

Okay all right I see R. Klein has her hand up.

R. Klein: Yes, thank you. I would just like to second what Kristen just said about the track. I think that the students and their track, you know former and current students and their track coach really gave a very compelling presentation about the need for that track; and I believe that if we have 70 kids now, we might have a hundred or more if we got students that were interested in track coming to

Bolton as well. So, I would just like to support that that endeavor that initiative thank you.

B. Munroe: Looks like we're about ready to move out of this item four of the discussion and my question actually goes back to the Board of Selectmen listing of projects. Can you provide any more information on the items one and two for the town office and meeting space and NRMCC? I think we really, I mean maybe you already have and I know Bob been mentioning some engineering stuff going on here. Boy I really see that the need for the town offices as compelling. It worries me that you know where we have people in the Notch Road facility with water coming down around them when it's raining. It also worries me and I don't know maybe it's unfounded; but I worry about the tax collection people you know sitting in a 170-year-old foundation or you know cellar and what might happen to them. So, I'm just wondering are we getting any closer to some sort of resolution on this and some sort of a you know project?

S. Pierog: We have sort of stalled on this project at this point and the tax collection people are not sitting in 170-year-old basement. That area that they're in was built in the 50s or 60s not 200 years ago. It is not handicapped accessible however. So, that is that particular portion of the building's thing and you are correct Notch Road is in very, very poor condition. There is an engineering report that is out on the town website that basically says do not fix tear it down. The cost to fix that building would be far more than tearing it down and starting over. So, we do have some preliminary plans. We brought them to the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning and we do need to move forward on those; and it's my hope that we can get that done this winter at least, to move forward so that we're ready to put something before the taxpayers. So, the project would have to be proposed and approved by the taxpayers before it actually moves forward and I can't tell you how many times, we've actually put this before the taxpayers and they've turned it down. So, we want to make sure we have it right before we do it again.

B. Munroe: Right, I understand that. What concerns me here, all these projects that we're looking at are worthy projects. What concerns me here is if this one gets left in the dust and we go and come up with it with bonding for the roof, the air conditioning, these things are important no doubt. You know the potential of another bay at the fire department that I just I'm just afraid that our ability to fund additional projects is obviously very limited and I just don't want to see the town staff left out of the queue.

S. Pierog: I agree wholeheartedly.

## **5. Health Insurance**

S. Pierog: Okay and health insurance is on the agenda but at this point we don't have good news or bad news. The good news is that I think the transition went

somewhat smoothly. There were some. Hiccups but the decision to move to the state partnership plan has turned out to save the town a lot of dollars while providing our employees a better benefit than they had before. So, any comments on health insurance?

R. Morra: I think this is an issue we look at every year.

B. Munroe: I saw some information on the savings on the town side above and beyond; and this was actually not just things. What happened with the health insurance there due to the terrific efforts of staff and you guys continually evaluating your different alternatives resulted in no increase on the town side for health insurance and in fact it resulted in a substantial decrease. The number of \$139,000 comes to mind as far as the decrease goes. In the course of our discussions leading up to the budget I know that we were talking with Kristin and the Board of Ed as well and I know that they were having a difficult time at that time, trying to quantify what the decrease would be and that's saying firstly that there was no increase; and to find out what the actual decrease was going to be over the previous year. I'm wondering Kristin if you guys have made any progress on that particular calculation?

K. Heckt: Well, no I don't. I do, but I don't. So, we already have changes in the works. We have two new positions that we are trying to fill right now. We have several unfilled positions that we still have not yet been able to fill. So, you know as much as Sandy doesn't like it when I say special education is an ever-changing landscape; this year so is health insurance for us because we have so many positions that are either open or waiting to be filled. So, um that's a stay tuned Bob.

B. Munroe: Yeah, I'm sorry to hear that. That you're still handicapped by not being able to fill those positions. However, I did express that as a possibility you know you did too you know this could be reality.

K. Heckt: We've had a number of staff leave that we did not anticipate we're leaving since July 1<sup>st</sup>. So, you know people take different jobs or decide to go a different path in life and then you know we have to try to fill that position so we have had a number of unanticipated changes and we are still dealing with unanticipated changes.

B. Munroe: Does it seem that the recruitment is getting any less difficult at this point or no?

K. Heckt: That would be wonderful Bob for that to be the case.

S. Pierog: It doesn't matter what your profession is the town can't hire either.

B. Munroe: It's all so odd isn't it but anyway I think what that does tend to you know give me a short-term thought would be that you know it looks like some of these possible surpluses that are being confirmed with the closing of the last fiscal year ending June 30 were substantial; and that was in addition the net savings above and beyond what both boards contributed toward the funding of this budget that we're now in. It would seem to me that some of these fairly significant surpluses are probably going to continue as a consequence of the inability of us and everybody else to hire. That wasn't a question observation.

S. Pierog: That certainly is a possibility.

R. Tuthill: I'm curious about the much lower rate on the current medical plan. I'm just wondering how much data that the current medical plan received from our previous plan so that they were able to construct a rate that was informed or whether or not we are actually in an introductory period with our rates and once they have some experience with us, we may be in for a rather rude shock? Could you speak to that?

S. Pierog: I'll try and then I'll let Kristin jump in. When we moved to the state partnership plan; we did provide them with our claims data for I believe the last three years. The rates we got from the state partnership plan were those that they provide to all of their participants. It's not based, at least to my recollection, not based on claims for prior years but rather based on claims for the entire population.

K. Heckt: Well correct and it's also rates based on Toland county. So, the state partnership plan initially it was one plan for the whole state and one number they have since broken up into geographic areas and Toland County is the area that we fall in. So, we fall into that kind of rate zone if you will.

R. Tuthill: Oh, thank you. That mitigates a worry item for me anyway.

S. Pierog: Health insurance is still a huge worry item for me as I'm sure it is for Kristin. The only thing we can do is keep our finger on the pulse of the health insurance cost and the health insurance community I guess is a good way to put it. I never was a fan of the partnership the state partnership plan; but from a financial perspective and a care of the employees' perspective you can't beat it.

B. Munro: And it has the other benefit of as you mentioned smoothing out the experience ratings on an annual basis over a far. I don't know how many people are involved in that thing but I'm sure it's thousands and thousands. You know you guys were off on another solution to that but it was going to require building you know a consortium of towns which was going on but it still was a very limited population and I mean especially compared to the state's offering of this to so to every municipality in the state.

R. Tuthill: The rate volatility that we experienced under the previous plan was very concerning and so I'm happy to hear what you've just said.

B. Munroe: Right, it should smooth everything out a lot more.

K. Heckt: I will just say this to all of you however as a caveat that you know when you look at this at the state level there's some losses there, So, you know if Connecticut is flush with money that should not be an issue for the state to continue to supplement the plan right; but if Connecticut is not then we're going to be in a world of hurt again and be looking for another health insurance option for our staff. So, I just want to make sure everybody's clear on that.

R. Tuthill: Your point we're about to pay the new UConn football coach three to four million dollars a year and like some for his staff. So, when I heard that I kind of wondered how long that could possibly go on given the fact that we're currently flush but maybe in a couple years down the road maybe not so flush.

R. Morra: Yeah, and the toilet will flush.

S. Pierog: All right that was a good point to end on Bob Morra. All right if no if there is no other business to come before this special meeting, I thank you all for attending I thank you all for your input and discussion and this meeting is adjourned.

**6. Adjournment.**

S. Pierog adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

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

## Town of Bolton Board/Commission Interest Form

**Name:** Jeffrey Scala

**Address:** 32 lookout landing

**Telephone Number:** 8606079717

**Alternate/Cell Number:**

[Jeffreyscala@att.net](mailto:Jeffreyscala@att.net)

**Political Affiliation:** Democrat

**Board/Commission:** Building Commission

**Type of Member:** Full Member

**Statement:** Have expertise and looking to help

**Background Information:** Professional Engineer  
involved with design and construction  
Regularly participate in QBS process.

**Additional Info:**

**Signature:** Jscala

## Town of Bolton Board/Commission Interest Form

**Name:** Richard Tuthill

**Address:** 233 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043

**Telephone Number:** 860.643.1884

**Alternate/Cell Number:** 860.709.7999

[rstuthills@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rstuthills@sbcglobal.net)

**Political Affiliation:** Independent

**Board/Commission:** Temporary Building Commission

**Type of Member:** Full Member

**Statement:** As an engineer I think I have the ability to identify the critical issues

**Background Information:** M.S. Mechanical Engineering, RPI; Resident for 54 years; active in Bolton civic affairs

**Additional Info:** Have served on numerous boards and commissions in Bolton

**Signature:** Richard Tuthill

Bolton Board of Selectman members,

I write to you regarding the current bid for the hay ground at Heritage Farm. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Kyle Paggioli, my wife and I each grew up in Bolton and ultimately decided this was where we wanted to settle down and raise a family. We built a home on my family's farm on Birch Mountain Road and currently have two children. I am the 4th generation to farm this land and we would love nothing more than to see our kids be the 5th generation. We have a vision for this farm far beyond any of our previous generations' dreams. We currently raise 40-50 head of beef cattle and grow high quality hay to feed out through the year.

Farming for me is more than a business. The family farm is a lifestyle, it is an ideal worth preserving; an it's a way of life that has diminished and changed so much over the years. We want nothing more than to provide our neighbors and family with the best quality beef and we do this through preserved and sustainable farming practices.

In order for my family to start pursuing our long-term goals for growth of our farm- we need to secure more feed. What better than to be able to secure more feed than in our hometown. My father and I round bale anywhere from 500-1000 round bales of hay every season in 3 to 4 cuttings of hay. Since we bale balage hay (a high moisture forage for beef cattle)- the entire process of cutting and baling is a two-day process. We have invested in and operate specialty hay equipment that helps us combat the constant weather and climate changes and limits soil compaction, allowing for better regrowth between cuttings. We have baled hay for Longo Open Space of Glastonbury, Fish Family Farm, Treat Farm, Ed Clarke of Vernon, and Glastonbury Hunt Club just to name a few. We have the experience and equipment to successfully and productively take this lease on for two years.

Aside from being the highest bidder on this hay ground, bringing more revenue to the town than has been done in any previous years, I can personally guarantee this hay will stay in town to feed our animals, a practice which currently isn't being upheld. We also have fundraising ideas that could potentially benefit the PTA or Heritage Farm commission. If you live on Birch Mountain you know we decorate our hay bales throughout the different seasons. We could take this idea and bring it to life at Heritage Farm, allowing different families, clubs, businesses or organizations to decorate different hay bales; bringing the community together and bringing more foot traffic to see an experience the splendor that we are lucky enough to share at Heritage Farm.

We want to keep farming alive in Bolton.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kyle Paggioli  
Paggioli Farm  
51 Birch Mountain Road  
Bolton, CT 06043  
(860)508-8702  
[Kpaggioli@gmail.com](mailto:Kpaggioli@gmail.com)

11/8/21

October Highlights

From Interim Town Administrative Officer

- Met with UCONN Engineering students twice regarding planning for water line extension
- Met with CIRMA regarding current insurance coverage
- Completed FEMA grant for Storm Isaias and received payment
- Completed budget meeting with supervisors and sent out packet
- Completed and advertised the call for the Town Meeting
- To date I have met with most of the supervisors for the annual review
- Working on annual report
- Responded to claim for loss of bumper during road construction on Tolland Road
- Went to bid and received bids for Heritage Farm field lease, cemetery lawn services and sexton services
- Looking at expanding use of EDMS for Land Use Records
- Working on expansion of Tyler program for supervisors to complete purchase orders and request for payment
- Interviewed and brought Ashleigh Johnson on board to fill the vacancy in the tax office as Assistant to the Assessor and Tax Collector

Respectfully submitted,

James Rupert