

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021
Minutes**

The Board of Selectmen held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 with First Selectman Pam Sawyer presiding. Also, in attendance were Selectmen; Robert Morra, Mike Eremita, Adam Teller and Interim Administrative Officer James Rupert. Robert DePietro Jr. arrived late.

1. Call to Order.

P. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approve Pam Sawyer to be Added as a Signer to the Following Resolutions:

a. Emergency Management Grant Resolution and Homeland Security Grant Resolution.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen adopt the resolution of the Emergency Management Grant and the Homeland Security Grant and allowing First Selectman Pam Sawyer to sign on behalf of the Town.

By: R. Morra

Seconded: M. Eremita

Discussion: None

Vote:

For: Morra, Eremita, Teller, Sawyer, DePietro Jr.

Against: None

Abstain:

b. Banking Resolution.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen adopt the banking resolution adding First Selectman Pam Sawyer as a signer on the account.

By: R. Morra

Seconded: A. Teller

Discussion: None

Vote:

For: Morra, Eremita, Teller, Sawyer, DePietro Jr.

Against: None

Abstain:

3. Consider and Act on Bids for:

J. Rupert explained the difference between these two bids is one is for lawn maintenance services and the other if is for purchase of burial plots and arrangements of burials.

a. Cemetery Maintenance.

J. Rupert explained based on the last Selectmen's meeting and the issues we have had in past with U.S. Cemetery Services we chose not to include them in the bidding process.

Included in tonight's packet is a spreadsheet comparing the costs of the two remaining companies that bid for cemetery maintenance. We also check references on both companies (Thomas Landscaping and G&G Property Services).

While the responses we got for Thomas Landscaping were positive the responses we got for G&G Property Services were outstanding in comparison. What we heard overwhelmingly was that G&G had great communication, very responsive, they often check in with the customer, especially if they see something that may be an issue; they will bring it to our attention before we hear about it from someone else and try to address it. It was also stated to us that they treat the property as their own. The owner of the business is usually on site and they are very respectful. They are also the low bidder.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen accept the bid of G&G Property Services for cemetery maintenance for one year with the option to be mutually agreed upon between the Town and G&G Property Services to extend up to another two (2) additional years and the company must

provide worker's compensation insurance for all its employees with the Town of Bolton listed as a Certificate holder.

By: R. Morra

Seconded: B. Morra

Discussion:

R. Morra stated one of the issues we've had with the current contractor is they were not very responsive to the town or public to work with. We extended their contract for a few months but all the issues that we've had are the reason we chose not to consider their bid during this process. We were not at all satisfied with their service

Adam Teller stated the amount of equipment and the work they will be doing does not seem like it would be done by one person. This is a sole proprietorship LLC and the sole proprietor exempted himself from the worker's comp coverage but the certificate of insurance does not provide for worker's comp insurance for any employees. How will the Town be protected if the sole proprietor does not have worker's comp any employees?

Vote:

For: Morra, Eremita, Teller, DePietro Jr., Sawyer

Against: None

Abstain: None

b. Sexton Services.

J. Rupert stated we have checked references on both Thomas Landscaping and Czaja Brothers, Inc. for sexton services. Again, Thomas Landscaping had good references but Czaja Brothers were really outstanding. Excellent communication, they will call ahead if there is any cause for concern, the references we called stated that they have had numerous compliments on Czaja Brothers was the best company they had ever worked with and they also have tents and lowering equipment if ever needed and this can save families money. They are very respectful of those being interred and their families. No one contacted had ever experienced any mistakes with this company either.

M. Eremita: What is the \$1500.00/ month charge to us? They're charging us an additional fee of \$1500.00 per month above the burial fees? Before we make a motion we should find out if this is an additional fee or included.

J. Rupert- I believe this is an additional charge.

M. Eremita – this is an extensive fee for us to pay. For the number of burials in town we might want to revisit this and speak with this contractor first.

P. Sawyer stated if we waited to make a decision we would be without Sexton services as of December 1st which could be an issue. We could take a risk and postpone this bid until the December 7th meeting, we can accept the other bid, or we can ask Jim to clarify this bid a hold a Special Meeting next week.

R. DePietro asked if this contractor is aware of how wet the grounds in the cemetery are and what this could mean with the heavy equipment they use?

Adam Teller asked if we could find out if other towns pay a monthly fee as well?

Consensus is that we should look into the Czaja Brother's contract more and reconvene on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 for another Special Meeting.

4. Adjourn.

P. Sawyer adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

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