

BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting & Budget Workshop #6
6:00 p.m. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024
BOLTON TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD
In-Person and Virtual (Hybrid Format)

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Members Present In-Person: First Selectman Rodney Fournier, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra, Gwen Marrion, Tim Sadler, Amanda Gordon, Mather Clarke

Board of Selectmen Members Present Via Zoom: Pamela Sawyer

Staff Present In-Person: Town Administrator James Rupert

Staff Present Via Zoom: Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

1. Call to Order: R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Discussion on Retreat Agenda:

J. Rupert said he did some research and found an agenda from another state that offered ideas for possible agenda items including opening with ground rules, allowing the public to give input, each member having an opening couple of minutes to say what they hoped to accomplish, carryover goals, new and revised goals, policy priorities, other initiatives, aspirations, expectations of each other, and goal refinements.

The Selectmen discussed their individual thoughts on what they would like to have on the retreat agenda. Some topics included addressing infrastructure, instability of town budget, housing, look at POCD goals that have not been addressed, the educational system, increases in recreational activities, creative self-sustaining ideas for the rec department, economic development, school sustainability, lower operating costs, and new town facility.

A. Gordon kept notes on each member's thoughts and ideas and will send the notes to the Town Administrator and First Selectman.

The Selectmen discussed a date for the retreat. The consensus was April 6th or April 13th.

3. Budget Deliberations:

J. Rupert explained Connecticut's Countryside is requesting \$5,000 for FY2024-2025. He highlighted the economic development activities the group is doing for the town. Per request of the Selectmen, he will provide the group's entire budget and planned activities to the members. There is \$2,500 remaining in the Economic Development Commission (EDC) budget that can be put toward this.

J. Rupert reported the Highway Department would like the Selectmen to consider funding \$10,100 for temporary summer help as an add package.

The Selectmen began their deliberations on the requests in the FY 2024-2025 town budget. The following departments were reviewed and no changes were made to the submitted budget requests at this time:

- Finance Committee
- Auditing Services
- **Assessor:** J. Rupert reported the Assessor has a new add request for cloud hosting of Vision Government Solutions. The Selectmen requested the actual costs and benefits of this request.
- Tax Collector
- Town Clerk
- Building & Land Use Department
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Probate Court
- Inland Wetlands Commission
- Economic Development Commission
- Animal Control
- **Finance Department:** J. Rupert noted this department is understaffed. Discussion followed on the cost of adding a part-time employee or restructuring the BOE and town finance departments in the future. The Selectmen will revisit this budget request.
- **Elections:** The Selectmen will revisit this budget request. The ROV's are waiting for information and direction from the Secretary of State. The Selectmen requested a copy of the spread sheet with the payroll costs compiled by the ROV's for tomorrow's meeting.
- **Police:** The Selectmen will revisit this at tomorrow's meeting. J. Rupert reported he has just received actual State Trooper costs from the State.

The Selectmen deliberated the requested budgets for the following departments and decided on the changes noted for each at this time:

- **Administration:**
 - Reduce the Legal Services line item by \$10,000.
- **Personnel:**
 - Reduce the Medical line item by \$18,000 based on information from the State that the town should see a percentage reduction in its contribution.
- **Insurance:** J. Rupert reported this budget reflects a 5% increase over the current year. He said the town is still waiting on the figure for Property & Liability insurance. He noted the town pays for 40% of cyber security insurance and the BOE pays 60%.
 - Reduce the Cyber Liability Insurance line item by \$800.

4. **Adjournment:** R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald *Linda H. McDonald*

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