

BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting & Budget Workshop #7
6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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 Absent: Pamela Sawyer

Staff Present In-Person: Town Administrator James Rupert

Staff Present Via Zoom: Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

Others Present Via Zoom: Daniel Ross, Deputy Chief Matthew Perreira, Bob Langton, Fire Lt. Jason Vincent, Chris Moquin, Fire Chief Bruce Dixon, Pam P.

1. Call to Order: R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Budget Deliberations:

As requested at last night's meeting, the Selectmen reviewed an additional budget request with explanation from the Assessor's office for Cloud hosting of the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA), a detailed spreadsheet with payroll costs for the Elections budget, and detailed information from Connecticut's Countryside on the group's present and planned projects.

The Selectmen continued 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:

- Animal Control
- Fire Marshal
- Emergency Management
- Public Building Commission
- Town Building Operations
- Veterans Services
- Library
- Conservation Commission
- Refuse Services: This budget reflects a 22% increase. J. Rupert explained the town pays by the ton, paying less by the ton to get rid of recycling than for disposing of trash. Depending on the commodity market, the town might get a deduction in the actual overall bill, but this last year, the commodities market has not been very good as far as the town being paid back for recyclables. J. Rupert noted the town is fortunate to have a town attorney that has dealt in trash negotiations for years and the town spent a year negotiating contracts, looking at places the town could truck the material, including trying to get the trash to energy plant in Lisbon to take it directly. J. Rupert said the increase in tipping fees from last year to this year was huge and this budget projection is based on the price per ton going up next year as well.
- Public Health

- Redemption of Bonds
- Interest-Long Term Debt
- BLRWPCA Debt
- Transfer out (Separation Fund) - The Selectmen requested that J. Rupert find out how much is left in this fund from last year.

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

- **Fire Commission:**
 - Reduce Professional Education Training line item by \$4,000 to \$8,800
 - Reduce Payroll line item by \$29,000
 - Add \$29,000 to Proficiency Fund line item
 - Reduce Payroll line item by \$2,153.73, funding one less Lieutenant
- **Police Protection:**
 - Reduce Payroll line item to \$300,000 based on figures from the State. This figure also includes \$10,00 for requested overtime.
- **Highway Department:**
 - Increase Other Payroll line item by \$7,000 for the additional summer help supplemental request
 - Reduce Tree Trimming line item by \$7,000
 - Reduce Shared Services line item by \$300 to \$0 dollars
- **Senior & Social Services:**
 - Reduce Payroll Line Item by \$8,754 (this is a placeholder at this time)
 - Add \$1,000 to Other Professional Services line item to pay for mandatory driver physicals
- **Recreation:**
 - Increase Intergency Purchased Services line item by \$1,844
- **Capital Reserve:**
 - Reduce Fire Commission Strategic Plan line item by \$25,000
 - Increase Modular Offices line item by \$5,500
 - Reduce Excavator line item by \$35,000
 - Reduce Herrick Park Roof Replacement line item by \$28,000
- **Bond & Note Expenditures:**
 - Increase Bond & Note Expenditures line item by \$10,000 to cover fire truck note/interest

J. Rupert said there is still time for the board to work on the budget a little bit more as the proposed FY2024-2025 Town Budget has to be to the Finance Committee on or before March 15, 2024. The budget could be voted on at the March 5th regular BOS meeting. He said he will continue to work on refining numbers for some of the estimated figures as more information becomes available.

3. **Adjournment:** M. Clarke MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

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.