

BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting & Budget Workshop #2
6:30 p.m. TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 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, Mather Clarke, Gwen Marrion, Amanda Gordon, Pamela Sawyer (7:11 p.m.)
Board of Selectmen Members Absent: Tim Sadler

Staff Present In-Person: Town Administrator James Rupert, Tax Collector Lori Bushnell, Library Director Elizabeth Thornton

Staff Present Via Zoom: Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald, Finance Director Jill Collins

Others Present In-Person: Fire Commission Chairman John Morianos, Fire Chief Bruce Dixon (7:10 p.m.), Library Board of Directors Chair Rebecca Holliman, Deputy Chief Matthew Perriera, and others

Others Present Via Zoom: Library Board of Directors member Dorothy Neil, Jim Loersch, Fire Lieutenant Jason Vincent, Assistant Fire Chief Michael Eremita (6:43 p.m.), Robert Neil

1. **Call to Order:** R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Consider and Act on Call for Town Meeting:** R. Fournier read the call for Special Meeting into the record as follows:

The legal voters of the Town of Bolton are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Special Town Meeting at the Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road, on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. for the following purposes:

1. To authorize the approval of the remaining funds from the 2017 borrowing allocation for the Board of Education projects at the Bolton Center School, according to Section (a)(iv) of the approved resolution of the town meeting on January 25, 2017, for the purposes of the replacement of the cafeteria kitchen stove, energy management system, and lockers, to the extent of the remaining available funds continue to be available for those approved purposes through December 31, 2024.

Dated at Bolton, Connecticut, this 23rd day of January 2024.

R. Morra MOVED the Board of Selectmen approve the call for special town meeting. A. Gordon SECONDED.

J. Rupert explained the BOE has used up most the money for approved projects and did get an extension last year through the end of this fiscal year. The BOE found, if they do the HVAC project before the end of June, they will have to pay some of the money for overtime. J. Rupert said the money for the approved HVAC project would go further if the work were done during the summer so work could be done during the day. The BOE has asked the BOS to consider taking this to town meeting to have the voters allow them to do this and use any

remaining funds for approved purposes through December 31, 2024. J. Collins said the BOE was given a time limit for the projects which has expired and are asking for an extension. She noted this is bonded money and cannot just be used for anything.
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

3. Consider and Act on Date for Town Meeting:

A. Gordon MOVED to set the date for a Special Town Meeting at the Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road, for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 for the call that was previously read. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action for BOS Retreat: Discussion followed on finding a facilitator for the retreat, possibly scheduled for the second or third Saturday in March. Further discussion and possible action was tabled to the next meeting.

5. Budgets:

- **Tax**

Tax Collector Lori Bushnell presented the requested FY2024-2025 Tax Collector budget. The only increase is in negotiated salary. She answered questions from the board members.

- **Library**

Library Director Elizabeth Thornton presented the requested FY2024-2025 Library budget. The main increases are in payroll, to cover possible contract negotiated salaries and other contracts, anticipated overage in the copier contract. She answered questions from the board members and staff.

- **Fire Commission**

Presenting the requested FY2024-2025 Fire Commission budget, Chief Bruce Dixon explained the fire department has seen a lack of volunteers in the last two years. He said many of the fire department volunteers work during the day and are unavailable for calls. In addition, over the last few years, a number of the volunteer members have been hired in paid fire departments or ambulance services. He presented two options for the Personnel budget category, both of which include requests for additional monies.

Option 1 is a proposal for a package that compensates the Fire Chief and other officers and rewards members with certifications in Firefighting, EMS and/or TIM to respond to more emergency calls for service.

Option 2 includes the Option 1 proposal with the addition of two paid firefighters with EMT certifications to handle emergencies during the day as well as being tasked to handle a lot of the in-house maintenance associated with the fire house building and detailed fire/rescue/medical equipment and vehicle checks. Chief Dixon answered questions from the board members and staff.

6. Adjournment: A. Gordon MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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.