

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 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, Pamela Sawyer, Amanda Gordon

**Board of Selectmen Members Present Via Zoom:** Tim Sadler

**Staff Present In-Person:** Town Administrator James Rupert

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

**Others Present Via Zoom:** Nick Lavigne (Community Voice Channel)

**Others Present In-Person:** James Loersch

1. **Call to Order:** R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **Public Comment:** J. Loersch commented on the need for a new town hall facility.

3. **Correspondence:** No correspondence.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

a. **May 7, 2024 regular meeting minutes:** The following amendments were made to the May 7, 2024 regular meeting minutes:

**“7.a FY 24 Budget Report:**

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen accept the budget report as presented. T. Sadler SECONDED. P. Sawyer withdrew her motion.”

**“8.7.b Budget Transfers”**

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen approve the May 7, 2024 regular meeting minutes as amended. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

b. **May 21, 2024 special meeting minutes:** The following amendments (in bold) were made to the May 21, 2024 special meeting minutes:

**“2.3 Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:”**

**“3.4 Paggioli Driveway Application: Consider and Act on Discontinuing the Current Discussion and Set Date for Public Hearing:”**

**“4. P. Sawyer MOVED that the discussion be closed regarding the prior board’s meeting on the Paggioli driveway application. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 with G. Marrion abstaining- recusing.”**

P. Sawyer MOVED the Board of Selectmen approve the May 21, 2024 special meeting minutes as amended. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**5. Appointments/ Re-appointments and Resignations:**

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen re-appoint James Loersch as a full member of the Inland Wetlands Commission. G. Marrion SECONDED. P. Sawyer rescinded her prior motion.

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen make the following re-appointments:  
James Loersch as a full member to the Inland Wetlands Commission.  
Michael McDonnell as a full member to the Inland Wetlands Commission.  
Linda Rudolph as a full member to the Veterans Commission, term to start July 1, 2024.  
Paul Toomey as an Alternate to the Veterans Commission, term to start July 1, 2024.  
Bob Langton as a full member to the Fire Commission.  
G. Marrion SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen accept the following resignations:  
Andrew Gordon from the Inland Wetlands Commission.  
Erin Tonyali as Library page, effective June 13, 2024.  
R. Morra SECONDED. P. Sawyer thanked both for their efforts and work to the town. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**6. Ongoing Business:** There was no ongoing business.

**7. New Business**

**7.a Consider and Act on Approval for Supervisors Contract:**

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen accept the Supervisors Contract. R. Morra SECONDED with the stipulation to include the current language of the state health plan that was agreed upon that was not listed in the contract. P. Sawyer accepted the stipulation as an amendment. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**7.b Consider and Act on setting Special Town Meeting Date to approve Supervisors Local 818 Collective Bargaining Contract:**

R. Morra MOVED that the Board of Selectmen set a special town meeting to approve the Supervisors Local 818 Collective Bargaining Contract for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at Bolton Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 with P. Sawyer abstaining.

**7.c Consider and Act on adding First Selectman Rodney Fournier as an Authorized Signer on the Town Checking Accounts:**

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen approve adding First Selectman Rodney Fournier as an authorized signer on the Town checking accounts with the addition of correcting the Interim Town Administrator title on the document be corrected to Town Administrator. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**7.d Discussion on First Selectman's Pay:**

The consensus of the members was this issue would first go to the Human Resources/Personnel Subcommittee to bring a proposal forward to the full board.

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen table discussion on the First Selectman's pay until after the board has heard from the Human Resources/Personnel Subcommittee. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**7.e Consider and Act on Scheduling Public Hearing Date on First Selectman's Pay:**

P. Sawyer MOVED the Board of Selectmen table consideration and action on scheduling a public hearing on the First Selectman's pay until after the board has heard from the Human Resources/Personnel Subcommittee. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**7.f Discussion on how to Proceed with Results of Retreat:**

The Selectmen began discussion on the high priority items that emerged during the retreat. R. Morra said one of the top priority items focused on was new town facilities. He said the town would have to plan far ahead. The temporary offices have just bought the town time so the board can plan ahead. He said, if the board does not start now, whoever is on the board in four years, will basically be starting from ground zero again if serious planning has not happened. The bonding situation for the town will be significantly better in five or six years and the town will be in a great position to move forward. He said the board needs to come up with actual locations for a new facility, hold public discussions for input and pick a site.

P. Sawyer suggested the Facilities and Public Safety subcommittee look at existing sites and come up with a list of pros and cons.

G. Marrion said she served on two prior facility study committees and nothing ever happened with them. She expressed concern with getting stuck in that cycle again unless the board can agree as a group that they will not just bump this issue from month to month. The board has to be committed to taking a tangible step that actually progresses the issue.

The Selectmen heard from J. Rupert on the current town hall facility. J. Rupert said this is a beautiful facility but it does not meet the staff's current needs. The staff and others would be better served if they could be in an environment that was designed to meet today's needs and all of the staff could be under one roof to facilitate communication, work and good relationships. He also said he does not want to do this at a time that is not feasible for the taxpayers to afford it either and that is something the board would have to balance.

A. Gordon said she is of the opinion that the board needs a separate meeting to discuss the next steps of the retreat to give time and attention to each topic one by one and determine where each belongs.

J. Rupert said there have been some facilities studies done on the town's needs. He noted, a few years back, the town engaged with the UCONN School of Engineering who made a presentation of a three-dimensional project of a stand-alone building for a new town hall at sites identified for them at Notch Road and the other side of the State Trooper's office. He said they did look at facility needs at part of their planning. This information can be pulled together for the board.

A. Gordon MOVED that the Board of Selectmen set a date for a special meeting to further discuss next steps on the report outlined from the retreat. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

The consensus of the board was to schedule the special meeting for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Room A at the Notch Road Municipal Center, in-person and virtual.

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Facilities and Public Safety Subcommittee review and bring back to the board possible locations for a town hall facility or a town hall annex with a pro and con list for each one. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

The consensus of the members of the Facilities and Public Safety Subcommittee was to schedule a meeting for Monday, July 1, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in Room A at the Notch Road Municipal Center, in-person and virtual.

**7.g Discussion on Public Act 24-46 Regarding the Governor's Law establishing Property Tax Exemption for Veterans who have service-connected permanent and total Service-Connected Disability:**

P. Sawyer recused herself from the discussion.

J. Rupert noted the Assessor has provided information on how she believes this bill would affect the Town of Bolton with the additional amount to be exempt on the 2024 Grand List. The impact of the bill will be on the next fiscal year. The Selectmen discussed the lack of specific information from the state regarding this bill and its impact on Connecticut towns.

R. Morra MOVED the Board of Selectmen table discussion to the next meeting in order to get a description of Public Act 24-46, the bill analysis, how it affects the Town of Bolton's tax base by either obtaining information from the Council of Small Towns, Connecticut Council of Municipalities or using the Town Attorney . MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 with P. Sawyer recusing.

**8. Reports and Updates:**

**8.a FY 24 Budget Report:**

J. Rupert noted the Waste Collection budget is underfunded but will look better after the Finance Committee hopefully approves transfers to this line item. He reported the tax collection is going very well.

**8.b Consider and Act on A/P Report:**

P. Sawyer MOVED that the Board of Selectmen accept the A/P report as presented. A. Gordon SECONDED.

G. Marrion asked about the \$18,433 remittance to Firematic Supply Company for firetruck ET134, the newest firetruck. She noted this is a huge bill in addition to an already big purchase price, so there is more money the town keeps putting into the new firetruck and thinks the public needs to know that. In addition, she said there will be big interest payments on the bond for the truck alone. She said there are a lot of costs that people who voted for this truck probably did not realize and now they are bubbling to the surface and this is why she is putting emphasis on this.

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

**8.c Budget Transfers:** Budget transfers in the meeting packet are for informational purposes only.

**8.d Report on Nathan Hale potential Parking Sites:**

G. Marrion reported on May 20<sup>th</sup>, she walked three sites (two on Stony Road and one on Howard Road) with T. Sadler, M. Clarke, and Brent Mayerson under consideration for potential parking sites for the Nathan Hale corridor. She said the Howard Road location is no longer

under consideration because the owner of property at the end of the road did not wish to give or sell a right-of-way or easement to the town between the end of Howard Road and 500 feet to connect to the Nathan Hale corridor.

G. Marrion described the pros and cons of the two Stony Road possible locations. The group is leaning toward recommending the old house lot site on Stony Road as a potential parking site. Discussion followed on informing the neighbors above and below this location on the town's plan for a potential parking lot for the corridor. The Selectmen asked the Town Administrator's office to manage the notifications.

J. Rupert will reach out to Highway Foreman Sean Bailey to make arrangements to review the grading of the potential site. He said it would be helpful if G. Marrion or members of her group could be available as well to share their vision directly. G. Marrion agreed and J. Rupert said he would set up an opportunity for G. Marrion to meet with S. Bailey. J. Rupert said he is hopeful that this is a project the town could accomplish using town resources.

**9. Administrative Officer's Report:**

**9.a Monthly Report:**

J. Rupert reported on the following:

- The town made enough money on the tax sale on properties to make the town whole with taxes.
- AED and CPR training has been scheduled for staff on June 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as Narcan training.
- The town will be participating in the statewide emergency drill on June 12, focusing on elections this year.
- The town has posted the MS4 2023 Stormwater Report.
- The annual picnic is tomorrow with a fire extinguisher training component.
- The town has opted to have a voluntary compliance check with CONN OSHA for the town garage facility
- The opening of Indian Notch Park is scheduled for June 22.
- Nine firms attended the pre-bid walk at the Notch Road Municipal Center for analysis and testing and report and monitoring of abatement process.

**9.b Other:** P. Sawyer asked for a moment on the passing of Raymond Soma who served on many boards and commissions and said he would be missed. The next A/P meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**10. Adjournment:** P. Sawyer MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. R. Morra 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.