

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TAX ISSUE SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
6:30 PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024
BOLTON TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD
In-Person and Virtual (Hybrid Format)**

MINUTES

Tax Issue Subcommittee Members Present In-Person: Chairperson Ross Lally, Robert Morra, Amanda Gordon

Staff Present Via Zoom: Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

Others Present In-Person: Three members of the public

Others Present Via Zoom: Mary Huda

1. Call to Order: R. Lally called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Discuss Path forward for resolving Tax Issue:

R. Lally explained the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the path forward for resolving the tax issue. He said there is a proposal on the table for how to reimburse taxpayers.

A. Gordon explained the proposal is to keep the mill rate where it is at 32.74 and taxes for anyone who did not have an issue with their tax bill were due today. Anyone of the 557 property owners to have their assessment wrong on their original tax bill and got a revised tax bill will have their taxes due on August 31, 2024. The subcommittee will try to determine what the mill rate would have been had they had the correct grand list information at the time the mill rate was set, giving people a payment in the amount of the difference between the mill rate they were charged at and the mill rate that would have been set had they had the proper grand list at the time the mill rate was set for real estate and personal property. Motor vehicle taxes are not impacted. Letters will go out to all residents and they will be given the option to take a credit toward next year's tax bill or receive a check in the mail. If a tax is paid by escrow and a person chose to get a check, the check will be written to the person not the escrow account at the bank.

R. Lally said the focus of the meeting is to make sure the subcommittee has the right numbers to use for the grand list so that there are no future issues. He noted the subcommittee will be speaking with Mary Huda who they are considering getting in as a consultant.

R. Morra introduced Mary Huda and highlighted her qualifications to help resolve this issue, as someone who has the expertise and knows the inner working of this process to oversee this procedure.

R. Lally said, for the record, he and A. Gordon each looked at the contents and have downloaded an excel spreadsheet from the town's real estate system and the town's tax system and compared the old and net values of the system and saw some discrepancies.

A. Gordon and R. Lally reviewed the three priorities of the subcommittee:

- The top priority is to establish what the correct grand list is so that the subcommittee can move forward with identifying what that mill rate would have been so the subcommittee can move forward with identifying the amount of money each person is owed back.
- The investigation of figuring out what happened, how it can be corrected and prevent it from happening again moving forward.
- Putting forward some recommendations for policies and procedures and financial controls that would help prevent this from happening again.

Mary Huda said she would have to vet with her employer, the Town of South Windsor, before committing her services, outside of her full-time work hours, to Bolton. She and the members discussed aspects of the issue already completed and the work that remains. R. Lally noted, one of the challenges is that the town does not have the original file that was downloaded and tried to recover it but were unable to. Without that file, the subcommittee does not know whether the issue was present in Vision at the time of download, whether the download was at fault or corrupted at the desktop of the Assessor or whether it got corrupted being uploaded into Quality Data Systems (QDS).

M. Huda said she would have her proposal for services ready for the subcommittee to present at the August 6, 2024 Board of Selectmen's meeting. R. Lally asked her to phase her proposal dollar value to the town based on the three priorities of the subcommittee, the foremost helping the committee come to the appropriate grand list number, secondly, aiding in the investigation, and, thirdly, making recommendations for policy and procedure updates for the future.

A. Gordon shared an outline with the subcommittee on the report she offered to write for the public at the end of the process.

R. Lally said this is an unfortunate mistake that touches everybody and the subcommittee want to find out the right way to make people whole.

3. Adjournment: A. Gordon MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:0.

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.