

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 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, Amanda Gordon, Tim Sadler, Gwen Marrion, Pamela Sawyer

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: Attorney Dorian Famigletti, James Loersch, Ross Lally, and several members of the public

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

2. **Set Meeting Date regarding Paggioli Driveway:**
After discussion, the consensus of the Selectmen was to schedule a virtual and in-person meeting for deliberation and possible action on the Paggioli driveway application for August 27, 2024, immediately following the special A/P meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

3. **Public Comment:**
Elizabeth Krueger of 44 Toomey Road spoke in support of the funding for replacement of American flags and flag kits along the parade route. She said the town takes great pride in honoring its fallen military and the flags are a part of that. She urged the board to allocate the necessary funds that have been requested for the flags, the flags on the poles that do not currently have them and the flag kits.

4. **Ongoing Business:**
 - 4.a **Report from Ad hoc Subcommittee on Tax Issue:**
Tax Issue Subcommittee Chair R. Lally reported the subcommittee met last Thursday and reviewed where things were to date with the issue, what was the approach to returning the excess monies to taxpayers and whether to hire a consultant. He said there were no changes to the recommendation to the BOS to find out the amount of excess funds that would be returned to taxpayers and return the funds to persons in proportion to their holdings in real estate and personal property.

R. Morra added when the Tax Collector sends out letters to taxpayers affected, it would read that the excess funds could be returned in the form of a check or a credit on next year's taxes.

R. Lally said the subcommittee discussed how to get to the real grand list number given they members do not have the expertise or time to do that and considered hiring Mary Huda as a consultant. He shared her proposal as hired consultant at a \$265.00 hourly rate.

A. Gordon has a concern with M. Huda's availability to the town. She would have to work for Bolton outside her normal business hours in South Windsor, which mirror Bolton's business hours. That would mean Bolton's staff would have to work outside their normal working hours to collaborate with her. She is also concerned with the hourly rate proposed by M. Huda because this issue is already costing taxpayers' dollars and with the language in the contract proposal.

R. Morra said this is a starting point and suggested R. Lally and J. Rupert sit down with M. Huda to see if an equitable agreement can be reached.

R. Lally said it is good to get more than one quote for services and there are a couple of other former Assessors he and J. Rupert have in mind, specifically Mary Terhune and Charles Danna. He noted there is a sense of urgency with this issue but does not want to rush into it blindly.

G. Marrion commented it is important that the contract duties specify coming up a grand list that the town can base the return of excess funds. R. Lally said the subcommittee asked M. Huda to produce a grand list specific snapshot in time that is valid for the purpose of correcting this issue.

R. Lally summarized the next steps would be to sit down with M. Huda and go over the details of cost and talk to the other parties to see if they would be interested as they would probably have more flexibility than M. Huda.

P. Sawyer MOVED to table agenda item 4.b: "Consider and Act on Recommendation to have a Third Party look at Tax Issue" until the board has a consensus on how to move forward. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

4.b Consider and Act on Recommendation to have a Third Party look at Tax Issue: This agenda item was tabled.

4.c Consider and Act on using Founder's Day Fund to purchase Additional Flags:

P. Sawyer recommended to the board to use the Founders Day Fund to replace damaged flags and purchase some new flags. T. Sadler MOVED to use the Founders Day funds to purchase additional flags and kits. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

4.d Consider and Act on Date for Ad hoc Town Hall Committee Meeting (Committee Members R. Fournier, M. Clarke, G. Marrion, J. Loersch):

After discussion, the consensus was to schedule an Ad hoc Town Hall Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

5. Correspondence:

5.a R. Parlee – Bolton Walk Bike (BWB) Statement of Support for Trail Access:

R. Fournier read a letter from the Bolton Conservation Commission dated 7/2/24 in support of a safe remedy for the residents in the Bolton Lake area to access the Hop River Trail and East

Coast Greenway. They feel that an open connection will help restore and guide safe movement for bicycle and pedestrian traffic between the Notch and various parts of town.

5.b T. Manning Planning and Zoning Email:

R. Fournier reported the PZC Chair Tom Manning has invited the Selectmen to a discussion about property development and affordable housing with the Planning and Zoning Commission at its regular meeting on August 14, 2024. T. Manning explained that the Zoning Regulation and Subdivision Regulations are currently being codified with a view for simplification to the users, staff and property owners.

J. Rupert said this is an opportunity for the Selectmen to have a conversation with the PZC so their commission can potentially start working on some of things identified by the Selectmen at the retreat that may be roadblocks to current and future development.

6. Approval of Minutes:

6.a. July 2, 2024 regular meeting minutes:

R. Morra MOVED that the Board of Selectmen approve the July 2, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:3 with P. Sawyer, G. Marrion and T. Sadler abstaining.

6.b. July 8, 2024 special joint committee meeting minutes:

P. Sawyer MOVED the Board of Selectmen approve the July 8, 2024 special joint committee meeting minutes as presented. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

6.c. July 9, 2024 special meeting minutes:

R. Morra MOVED the Board of Selectmen approve the July 9, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 with T. Sadler and P. Sawyer abstaining.

6.d. July 16, 2024 special Ad hoc meeting minutes: These minutes are for advisory purposes only. A. Gordon noted a correction needed on page 2; item 3.a as follows: a. Administration seems to like this ~~issue~~ **option** best.

6.e. July 16, 2024 special A/P meeting minutes:

P. Sawyer MOVED the Board of Selectmen approve the July 16, 2024 special A/P meeting minutes as presented. T. Sadler SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

7. Reports and Updates:

8.a FY 24 Budget Report: The Selectmen reviewed the fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 budget reports. A. Gordon commented there is about \$385,500 left at the end of FY2024, noting there are still some expenses coming in. She said the BOS did not budget for any carryover from the BOS in this year's budget, so that is potential additional revenue once it is audited.

8.b Report on Nathan Hale potential Parking Sites:

G. Marrion asked if there were any negative responses from the people receiving letters regarding the potential parking area for the Nathan Hale Corridor. J. Rupert said there were no responses. G. Marrion said, with no negative comments, the board would want to authorize this

work to be done. J. Rupert noted no engineering work needs to be done. J. Rupert said the newly hired Highway Supervisor begins August 12th. He asked that the committee meet with the Highway Supervisor at the site and share their vision with him once he has acclimated, possibly in his second week on the job.

G. Marrion MOVED that the Board of Selectmen authorize the creation of a parking area to access the Nathan Hale Corridor on the south side of Stoney Road. T. Sadler SECONDED. P. Sawyer opposed the motion, saying the board does not have the cost of the project, a time estimate, and it has not been reviewed by the new highway supervisor. She said it was not posted that the board would be making a motion to do this and the people on Stoney Road are not aware the board would be taking action on this tonight. G. Marrion withdrew her motion. Possible action on this project will be on the September 3, 2024 regular meeting agenda.

P. Sawyer recognized two pieces of correspondence received not on the agenda, one from Janine Gelineau and the other from Connie Kolesko.

8.c Town Administrator's Report:

Upon request of J. Rupert, P. Sawyer MOVED to add agenda item 8.d: Consider and Act on signing up for \$50,000 DESPP Rural Roads Speed Enforcement Grant. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

J. Rupert reported:

- set-aside water supply capital funds were used to install a dry hydrant and to build a water suppression pond at the Country Carpenters location.
- The town received a notice of grant award for the Pool grant to make upgrades to the Emergency Operations Center at Town Hall.
- The town received a notice of grant award for \$15,000 in ARPA money for the Senior Center to support senior center goals.
- He participated in EHHH's strategic planning meeting.
- He discussed with Arlene Fiano about potential planning for an event on Heritage Farm for the 250th celebration. He said the Selectman should be thinking about forming a committee for that celebration of our nation, what Bolton can do as a community and how that would tie in with the overall picture of the state celebration.
- He and Patrice Carson met with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) regarding the Route 6 & 384 & 44 intersection and asked them to have conversations with the State Department of Transportation to see if there has been a change in their perception of how to deal with that intersection.
- Work with the Central CT Solid Waste Authority continues looking at ways to take organics out of the waste stream.
- The Supervisors' union contract is being finalized.
- He worked with DEEP on the lake drawdown that happens every year.
- He worked on and submitted the cyber security grant application. This grant would provide some reimbursement for some enhancements already done to improve cyber security and provide funds to help move the initiative forward.
- The town hired a cemetery maintenance person and two library pages.

- J. Rupert reported he is waiting for a new contract for the analysis of the hazardous materials at the Notch Road Municipal Building and was told the analysis would take about three weeks to wrap up. The RFP's for the remediation and demolition would then go out. He said it would be near the end of the year before demolition would start.
- J. Rupert said R. Morra reached out to the Town of Vernon Mayor regarding Cubles Drive and was told the Town of Vernon did not take over any of the private roads, and only paved them.

8.d Consider and Act on signing up for \$50,000 DESPP Rural Roads Speed Enforcement Grant:

P. Sawyer MOVED the Board of Selectmen accept the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Rural Roads Speed Enforcement grant in the amount of \$50,000. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

- 8. Adjournment:** R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 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.