

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024  
MINUTES**

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 with First Selectman Rodney Fournier presiding. Also, in attendance were selectmen: Robert Morra, Pam Sawyer, Gwen Marrion, Amanda Gordon and Mather Clarke. Town Administrator Jim Rupert and Executive Assistant Kathy McCavanagh.

Audience members: Father Chris Rose (St. George’s Church), Bobby Bagioni, and Betty Caruso. Tax Issue Subcommittee: Ross Lally

Absent: Selectman Tim Sadler.

**1. Call to Order.**

R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comment.**

Father C. Rose spoke of the recent accidents on Route 44 and how cars are always speeding on this road. In the last few months there have been at least four (4) accidents, and he’s concerned that somebody is going to really get hurt if something is not done. Father Rose would like to see more traffic enforcement done, computerized speed traps set up, or possibly additional traffic lights.

B. Bobioni with mobile food share echoed Father Rose’s sentiments and said it’s very hard to pull out from the church parking lot as cars are constantly speeding by.

B. Caruso echoed the comments of both people above.

**3. Appointments/Resignations:**

**a. Kathy Walsh – Veteran’s Commission – Alternate.**

P. Sawyer made a motion to accept the resignation of Kathy Walsh as Veteran’s Committee Chairperson and move her to an alternate position. Seconded by R. Morra.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**b. Linda McDonald – Board Clerk – Resignation.**

P. Sawyer made a motion to accept the resignation of Linda McDonald as Board Clerk and thanked her for her service and dedication to the Town of Bolton over the years. Seconded by M. Clarke.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**4. Ongoing Business:**

**a. Consider and Act on Recommendation from Tax Committee.**

R. Lally explained that he, Amanda Gordon and Charlie Danna had met with the Tax Collector (Lori Bushnell) and Assessor (Kara Fishman) and (Finance Director) Jill Collins to go over the numbers again. The grand list will continue to change with every adjustment that is done; but they were able to figure out a good time to freeze the budget which provided final numbers they all agreed on.

A. Gordon shared the following motion the Tax Issue Committee came up with at their meeting on

September 3, 2024.

I (A. Gordon) make a motion that we recommend that the BOS return an amount not to exceed \$1,059,462 to tax payers, each in an amount proportional to the taxes that they paid on real estate and personal property taxes. This credit is to be calculated by the difference between the actual mill rate of 32.74 and the reference mill rate of 30.84 which was calculated off of a corrected net personal and property grand list, excluding motor vehicles, of \$558,522,236. I make my motion contingent on receiving the estimated credit spreadsheet from Lori that aligns closely with this return value.

There was then additional discussion from the Board of Selectmen on the above mentioned motion and A.Gordon then made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to accept the following changed motion from the Tax Issue Subcommittee. This motion was then seconded by P. Sawyer.

I (A. Gordon) make a motion that we recommend that the BOS return an amount not to exceed \$1,061,479 to tax payers, each in an amount proportional to the taxes that they paid on real estate and personal ,property taxes. This credit is to be calculated by the difference between the actual mill rate of 32.74 and the reference mill rate of 30.84 which was calculated off of a corrected net personal and property grand list, excluding motor vehicles, of \$558,522,236.

Vote:

Yes: A. Gordon, P. Sawyer, R. Morra, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

J. Rupert recommended that the Tax Committee go back and meet again with L. Bushnell, K. Fishman and J. Collins on exactly how to proceed with sending out refunds.

R. Lally to set up meeting for next week.

**b. Consider and Act on Parking for Nathan Hale Greenway (Stony Road).**

Over a month ago letters were sent out to all abutting property owners to the parking area. Only two letters of correspondence from D. Pec and R. Goehring regarding the parking area and trail, were received back and were read in at the meeting at this time. (See attachments A and B).

This coming Monday, G. Marrion and AJ (Highway Foreman/Deputy Facilities Director) will meet out at the Stony Road parking area to look at the existing driveway and parking. This will be a fill-in project for the highway department. They will do some clearing in the town right-of-way to improve the site line and will smooth out the parking area with some fill. Signage and a crosswalk should be for this area as well.

G. Marrion made a motion to authorize the highway department to proceed with the creation of the parking area on Stony Road.. Seconded by A.Gordon.

P. Sawyer recused herself from the vote as her property abuts the trail. She also spoke out opposing the parking area and trail from moving forward as there is a parallel trail across route 6 already. She feels this new parking has poor placement on a low usage road and that this will become a hangout and drug spot.

Vote:

Yes: G. Marrion, A.Gordon, P. Sawyer, R. Morra, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**5. New Business:**

**a. Consider and Act on Resolution for Homeland Security Grant.**

P. Sawyer made a motion to authorize First Selectman R. Fournier as the CEO and signer for the town on the required resolution. R. Morra seconded.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**b. Consider and Act on Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP).**

J. Rupert explained this grant will cover the first 3 years (until 2027) of the Assistant Building Official shared services position with Marlborough. This will help to expand our regional building department services.

P. Sawyer made a motion to authorize the selectmen's office to move forward with the RPIP grant in the amount of \$137,280 with the Town of Marlborough, as stated in the information presented. R. Morra seconded.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**6. Reports and Updates:**

**a. FY 24 Budget Report.**

No discussion.

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

P. Sawyer made a motion to accept the A/P as presented. R. Morra seconded.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**c. Consider and Act on Budget Transfers.**

None.

**d. Town Administrator's Report.**

J. Ruper read his report.

**e. 2024 Remaining Meeting Dates**

P. Sawyer made a motion to accept the list of remaining meeting dates for 2024 with the following changes:

November 5, 2024 - start time changed to 6:00 p.m. and

December 31, 2024 meeting to be moved to December 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Clarke seconded the motion.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

**7. Minutes:**

P. Sawyer made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting. Seconded by R. Morra.

Vote:

Yes: P. Sawyer, R. Morra, A. Gordon, G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Fournier

No: None

Absent: T. Sadler

a. July 30, 2024 - Special Meeting A/P.

b. August 6, 2024 - Regular Meeting.

c. August 14, 2024 - Special Meeting A/P.

d. August 27, 2024 - Special Meeting A/P.

**8. Adjournment.**

R. Fournier adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kathy McCavanagh*

*Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.*