

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025, 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL & ZOOM  
MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Present In-Person:** First Selectman Rodney Fournier, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra, Gwen Marrion, Tim Sadler, Mather Clarke

**Board of Selectman Absent:** Pamela Sawyer, Amanda Gordon (\*arrived one minute prior to adjournment)

**Staff Present In-Person:** Tax Collector Laurie Bushnell, Tax Assessor Kara Fishman

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Recording Secretary Kacie Cannon

**Others Present In-Person:** Barbara Amodio, Anna Spencer

**Others Present Via Zoom:** James Loersch, Bryce Aaronson, Betty Caruso

**1. Call to Order:** R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

R. Fournier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Comment**

Barbara Amodio shared an article from the small town of Washington, noting that within just two weeks of installing speed cameras, the town collected \$21,000.00 in fines. She recommended the Town consider installing cameras to prevent and catch speeders and to increase revenue through fines.

**4. New Business:**

**a. Consider and Act on Tax Due Date**

R. Morra explained that the Finance Committee is setting a temporary mill rate at tomorrow's meeting, and a new date for the election of taxes needs to be determined since the July 1 budget deadline has passed.

R. Morra MOVED to set a due date for Town taxes of August 1, 2025 on motor vehicles, real estate, and actionable supplementals. M. Clarke SECONDED.

Discussion: G. Marrion asked what happens to the mill rate if the budget fails. R. Morra explained that if the budget passes, tax bills with the correct mill rate will be sent out, otherwise, the temporary rate will remain in effect. Tax Collector Lori Bushnell added that she will ask the Finance Committee if the tax bills should be sent out with the new temporary rate immediately or whether to send the bills closer to August 1<sup>st</sup> in case the budget referendum passes.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent)

**b. Discussion on Veteran's Tax Exemption**

The Board reviewed a memorandum from Tax Assessor Kara Fishman outlining changes affecting veterans under Public Act 25-168. R. Morra highlighted the following sections for the Board to consider:

- Section 241: Exempts homes for spouses of veterans who were killed in action while on duty and provides an additional option to exempt up to two acres of the dwelling lot.
- Section 242: Provides an option for an income-based exemption for parents of veterans killed in action.

R. Morra noted that the number of affected individuals and the tax implications are currently unknown and recommended the matter be referred to a subcommittee for review and recommendation. G. Marrion mentioned that the Town could also adopt other sections outlined in the memorandum and questioned whether an ordinance would be needed to enact the changes. R. Fournier stated that veteran's homes are currently exempt in Bolton and asked Tax Assessor Kara Fishman to clarify whether that applies only to veterans who are 100% disabled. K. Fishman confirmed that it does and noted that she previously had to reject an applicant that was 90% disabled. She also noted that a conditional assessment would need to be applied if the Board of Selectmen (BOS) agrees to include two acres in the exemption.

The BOS agreed to send the information to the appropriate subcommittee for further review.

**c. Consider and Act on New Referendum Date(s)**

R. Morra MOVED to add additional budget referendum dates, if needed, of August 12, 2025 and August 26, 2025. T. Sadler SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

**5. Ongoing Business:**

There was no ongoing business.

**6. Update on Intersection of Vernon and Quarry Road**

R. Fournier explained that all non-essential improvements to the intersection are on hold until the budget has been determined. R. Morra emphasized the Town's commitment to the project but noted that decisions cannot be made until there is a clear understanding of the Town's fiscal status.

Resident Anna Spencer asked about the status of removing the telephone pole that obstructs the road. R. Morra stated that Town Administrator Jim Rupert has been in contact with Frontier about the issue; however, it is up to the company to decide whether or not to remove it.

**7. Appointments and Resignations:**

There were no appointments or resignations.

**8. Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**9. Approval of Minutes:**

**a. June 3, 2025 – Regular and A/P Meeting**

T. Sadler MOVED to APPROVE the June 3, 2025 Regular and A/P Meeting Minutes. R. Morra SECONDED.

Discussion: G. Marrion noted that "Heber" Road should be corrected to "Hebron" Road in the second paragraph of Item No. 3 Public Comment.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

**b. June 17, 2025 – A/P Meeting**

T. Sadler MOVED to APPROVE the June 17, 2025 A/P Meeting Minutes as presented. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:1:2 (M. Clarke Abstained, A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

**c. June 24, 2025 – Budget Transfers Only**

T. Sadler noted that the Agenda item should have read "June 24, 2025 – Special Meeting" instead of June 24, 2025 - "Budget Transfers Only." There was also some confusion as to two budget transfer requests that were

included with the minutes, and it was unclear who recorded the minutes as they were not signed. The BOS agreed to table the item until the author could be identified and added.

## **10. Reports and Updates**

### **a. Consider and Act on A/P**

R. Morra MOVED to APPROVE the Accounts Payable report as presented in the amount of \$71,141.89. T. Sadler SECONDED.

Discussion: G. Marrion stated that she has received several questions and comments regarding steps that are being taken to improve business development within the Town. She asked that Community Director of Development Patrice Carson either provide more detailed invoices to provide transparency to the public on her business development efforts or provide a presentation at a future BOS meeting.

The BOS discussed P. Carson's numerous roles and duties which include assisting with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), meeting with developers and homeowners, and updating PZC regulations as well her involvement with businesses through the Connecticut's Countryside website and participation on The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) and Capitol Region Council of Governments (CROG) committees. R. Morra noted that P. Carson does a great job but agreed that a more detailed breakdown would be beneficial in keeping the public informed of development efforts and to determine how much time is spent on Planning and Zoning versus community and business development. R. Fournier stated that he recently spoke with P. Carson and she is working on providing a written report to the Board.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

R. Morra MOVED to APPROVE the Accounts Payable report for Deferred Tax Revenue as presented in the amount of \$768.55. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

### **b. Consider and Act on Approving Budget Transfers (if needed)**

R. Morra MOVED to APPROVE the Budget Transfer Request from the Highway Department in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the category of Waste Water Removal to the category of Repairs and Maintenance for in-house truck repairs. T. Sadler SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2 (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

R. Morra MOVED to APPROVE the Budget Transfer Request from the Fire Commission in the amount of \$2,100.00 from the category of Repairs to the category of Fire Security for vehicle repairs.

Discussion: The BOS questioned whether the categories need to be switched from Fire Security to Repairs since the request is for vehicle repairs. Chief Financial Office Jill Collins, asked for the account numbers listed on the transfer and determined that the "Repairs" category needed to be corrected to the "General Supplies" category.

R. Morra AMENDED the MOTION to APPROVE the Budget Transfer Request from the Fire Commission in the amount of \$2,100.00 from the category of General Supplies to the category of Fire Security for vehicle repairs. T. Sadler SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:2. (A. Gordon and P. Sawyer Absent).

## **11. Town Administrators Report**

R. Fournier announced that the Town has been awarded a Transportation Rural Improvement Programs (TRIPS) grant in the amount of \$1,413,238.00 to replace the Lyman Road Bridge. He added that the Town has the matching funds of 20% from funds that were reserved last year and this year for the grant. He added that caution needs to be used in applying for grants this year to ensure matching funds are available if awarded.

R. Fournier provided the following highlights of the Town Administrator's Report in J. Rupert's absence:

- Paving on Meadow and French Roads are almost complete
- Bids for the RFP for the Fire Department Strategic Plan are due on July 7<sup>th</sup>
- Ballot box cameras have been installed and are working properly
- Negotiations are taking place with two unions

## **12. Adjournment**

R. Morra MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:12 p.m. T. Sadler SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1. (P. Sawyer Absent). A. Gordon arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kacie Cannon

*Kacie Cannon*

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