

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – A/P
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL & ZOOM
MINUTES**

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

Board of Selectmen Present Via Zoom: Amanda Gordon

Board of Selectmen Absent: Tim Sadler

Staff Present In-Person: Town Administrator Jim Rupert

Staff Present Via Zoom: Recording Secretary Kacie Cannon

Others Present Via Zoom: James Loersch, Robert DePietro, David Cowles, Sandra Pierog

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

2. Thank you to Senator M.D. Rahman and Possible Discussion on Intent of Grant:

R. Fournier reported that he spoke with Senator M.D. Rahman regarding the purpose of the grant he secured for the Town. Senator Rahman appreciated the idea of using the funds for ADA-accessible playground improvements, but advised it was unnecessary as he is pursuing a bond for that project. He explained that the funds were intended to address the fact that Manchester and Glastonbury previously received large Parks and Recreation grants, while Bolton and Andover did not.

R. Fournier noted that a list of potential projects has been provided in the meeting materials. P. Sawyer requested that the Board select a project before accepting the funds. R. Fournier stated that project selection will take some time due to the length of the list and cost considerations. G. Marrion asked whether the funds must be expended by June 2026. J. Rupert will confirm, but stated that he believes commitment of the funds is sufficient as it would be difficult to complete any projects by June.

The Board discussed additional ideas including capital projects, improvements to the Heritage Trail parking lot, adding bathrooms at Heritage Trail, a community garden, and frisbee golf. They also discussed forming a subcommittee and soliciting public input.

3. Consider and Possibly Act on Legislative Grant for Parks and Recreation for \$250,000:

R. Morra MOVED to ACCEPT the Legislative Grant for Parks and Recreation for \$250,000. P. Sawyer SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

R. Fournier thanked Senator Rahman for assisting the Town in securing the grant funds.

R. Morra MOVED to appoint the First Selectman and Town Administrator to form a subcommittee to review potential projects, determine costs, and solicit public input via e-mail. P. Sawyer SECONDED.

Discussion: The Board agreed that residents who submit written ideas may also participate in subcommittee meetings. J. Rupert stated that the information will be made available to the public through the website, the Bolton Bulletin, and Facebook.

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

4. Consider and Act on A/P:

P. Sawyer MOVED to APPROVE the 2025-2026 A/P Report in the amount of \$341,187.14. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

Discussion: G. Marrion asked about the \$135,323.34 storage garage on Page 3. J. Rupert explained it is a new building at the high school. He added that the funds were in Capital Projects for three years, and the project is now complete.

G. Marrion also inquired about the \$18,238.00 Tolland County Mutual Aid expenditure. J. Rupert explained that the Bolton Fire Department contracts with Tolland for dispatch services, which includes messaging to firefighters via radio broadcast, a paging system, and a sophisticated CAD system that alerts fire chiefs of the location of fires and whether assistance is needed from either town.

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

5. Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:

There were no Budget Transfers requiring Board approval.

6. Consider and Possibly Act on BOE Approval of FY25 Non-Fiduciary Activity Fund Summary and To Allow These Balances to be Carried Forward to FY26:

P. Sawyer MOVED to APPROVE the FY25 Non-Fiduciary Activity Fund Summary and to allow the funds to be carried forward. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

7. Consider and Possibly Act on Hartford Foundation For Giving Grant Application for Bolton Recreation Department, \$3500:

J. Rupert noted that no match is required, and the purpose of the grant is to purchase a movie screen, projector, and licensing for the Parks and Recreation Department to host movie nights.

P. Sawyer MOVED to authorize the Town to apply for the \$3,500 Hartford Foundation for Giving Grant for the Bolton Recreation Department. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

8. Consider and Possibly Act on Hartford Foundation For Giving Grant Application for Bolton Heritage Farm for Exhibit To House Artifacts Found at Farm and Curate and Create an Exhibit, \$7500:

J. Rupert noted that no match is required for the grant.

P. Sawyer MOVED to authorize the Town to apply for the \$7,500 Hartford Foundation for Giving Grant for the Bolton Heritage Farm to curate and create an artifact exhibit. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

9. Consider and Possibly Act on Recommendation to Hire Manitou for Fire Department Strategic Plan

P. Sawyer MOVED to hire Manitou for the Fire Department Strategic Plan. M. Clarke SECONDED.

Discussion: J. Rupert explained that both he and Chief Dixon independently reviewed the bids and both selected Manitou based on their local location and the fact that the bid is within budget. The company also conducts in-person meetings and comes highly recommended by other towns. R. Fournier explained that the purpose is to create a 10-year strategic plan to include rules, staffing, and operational recommendations. R. Morra noted that it will also include a fiscal plan.

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1 (T. Sadler Absent).

10. Adjourn

P. Sawyer MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 6:31 p.m. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1.

Respectfully submitted by Kacie Cannon

Kacie Cannon

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