

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING  
AND BUDGET WORKSHOP #6 MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 7 P.M.  
TOWN HALL & VIA ZOOM**

The Board of Selectmen held a meeting with a Special Meeting and Budget Workshop on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. In attendance were Rodney Fournier, G. Marrion, David Cowles, Bryce Aaronson, Mather Clarke, Tim Sadler, and the Town Administrator, Jim Rupert, who was present via Zoom.

**1. Call to order.**

Deputy First Selectman Gwen Marion called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She stated she would be running the meeting to avoid any appearance of influence by the current sitting First Selectman during the salary discussion.

**2. Discuss and possibly vote on the First Selectman's salary.**

The Board of Selectmen discussed and voted on a salary increase for the First Selectman position. The initial motion to increase the salary to \$50,000 per year was defeated.

The Board debated the value of the position, including the level of responsibility, estimated hours worked, and comparisons to compensation in similar towns. Members discussed the importance of offering fair compensation in order to attract and retain qualified candidates. There was also discussion about whether some of the First Selectman's responsibilities could be redistributed among the seven Board members to help alleviate workload and increase overall Board involvement.

**Motion:** Bryce Aaronson made a motion to approve the salary increase of the First Selectman to \$35,000 per year, effective upon budget passage. Do not include retroactive pay or benefits. Seconded by David Cowles.

Vote: Yes: D. Cowles, B. Aaronson, R. DePietro, and G. Marrion.

No: T. Sadler and M. Clarke.

Abstain: R. Fournier

Motion passed

### **3. Insurance budget.**

The meeting then focused on the insurance budget. The Board reviewed a 32% decrease in the insurance line item, primarily due to a \$54,000 reduction in property and liability insurance costs.

Jim Rupert explained that the Town had previously been paying for the Bolton Lakes Water Pollution Control Authority's insurance, approximately \$13,000, within the Board of Selectmen's budget. That expense has now been moved to the Bolton Lakes budget, where it properly belongs.

Jim also reported that a detailed review of insurance coverage was conducted. The Town currently uses two major insurers: CIRMA for general municipal coverage and McNeil for fire department and apparatus coverage.

### **4. Personnel budget.**

The personnel budget was briefly referenced following the insurance discussion. The board discussed concerns about the medical insurance budget, which showed a 23% increase compared to the expected 15%, and questioned whether previous adjustments had been made. They agreed to review the budget in detail with Jill on the 24th, when she will provide a master spreadsheet to analyze overall impacts. The board also noted that some personnel service numbers seemed fictitious and would need further examination, particularly since Jill, who prepared the budget, was absent.

### **5. Other budget discussion.**

None.

### **6. Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. by Bryce Aaronson.

Respectfully submitted by

***Suellen Kamara***

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