

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING w/ A/P
Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

	ROSTER	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	ABSENT
FIRST SELECTMAN:	Rodney Fournier	x		
SELECTMEN:	Bryce Aaronson	x		
	Mather Clarke	x		
	David Cowles	x		
	Robert DePietro		x	
	Gwen Marrion	x		
	Tim Sadler	x		

STAFF:	James Rupert, Town Administrator
	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary

Members of the Public:

Ross Lally, Rev. Brandon Yaghjian-Tison, Sandy (last name not stated).

1.0 Call to Order:

First Selectman Rodney Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to rearrange the Agenda** for the Regular April 21, 2026, BOS with A/P meeting add as Agenda Item 2, the Finance Committee Chair to address the BOS in preparation for an upcoming hearing.

Selectman B. Aaronson **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:1:2**

Yea	Aaronson, Cowles, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	Fournier, Clarke
Abstain	DePietro

2.0 Finance Committee Chair Summary Presentation to the BOS:

- Ross Lally, Finance Committee Chair, Bolton
- **Finance Committee Chair’s Presentation:**
 - Last year: 1% spending increase led to a 5% tax increase (originally projected at 13%).
 - This year: 4% spending increase is resulting in a ~10% tax increase.
 - Frustration expressed at repeated “one-time” tax hikes due to revaluation and mill rate changes.
 - Surplus funds have been exhausted; next year may be worse.
 - Urgent need for collaborative, long-term solutions; cuts alone are unsustainable.

- Emphasis on transparency before the public hearing.
- **Board Discussion:**
 - Recognition of the need for better engagement with other town committees.
 - Deadline for budget finalization: May 7, with two weeks remaining for adjustments.
 - Board encouraged to proactively propose cuts rather than react to Finance Committee demands.

3.0 Appointments & Resignation:

a. Resignation: Mark Nystrom - Library Assistant II.

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to ACCEPT** the resignation of Mark Nystrom.

Selectman D. Cowles **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

4.0 Correspondence:

a. Letters of Support for Interchange of 6/44/384.

- Multiple letters of support from residents and local organizations.

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to rearrange the Agenda** for the Regular April 21, 2026, BOS with A/P, and **move Agenda Item 10**, BOS Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Interchange of Routes 6/44/384 **to Agenda Item 4b.**

Selectman D. Cowles **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:1:0**

Yea	Fournier, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	Aaronson,
Abstain	0

b. BOS Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Interchange of Routes 6/44/384.

Selectman R. DePietro **MOVED to APPROVE the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CROG) to advance the Interchange Re-Design of Routes 6/44/384 to the CT Department of Transportation (CT DOT).**

Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED;**

Discussion:

- Selectman D. Cowles advocated for integrating business and downtown development features.
- Selectwoman G. Marrion stated for the record that majority of public input from residents was in favor of supporting the interchange re-design and CROG will be a good

advocate on Bolton’s behalf when moving into the next series of design phases with CT DOT.

- First Selectman R. Fournier and Town Administrator J. Rupert reiterated that there will be additional opportunities for public input for the final design.

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

c. Request for Outdoor Use of Town Property and Outdoor Consumption of Alcohol on Town Property.

- Present for the request was Rev. Brandon Yaghjian-Tison, Senior Pastor, CEO
- Bolton Congregational Church (BCC), United Church of Christ is requesting the use of the roundabout circle driveway behind town hall for overflow seating, approximately 18-tables for the 2026 Lobster Boil that is scheduled to potentially take place June 13, 2026, from 5-7pm.
- Additionally, BCC is requesting the BOS approve of the request to offer a cash bar to the patrons visiting the lobster boil where beer and wine will be available for purchase and distributed in plastic containers to those seated outdoors.

5.0 Consider and Act on Allowing the Bolton Congregational Church (BCC) - Request for Outdoor Use of Town Property and Outdoor Consumption of Alcohol on Town Property:

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to APPROVE** the Bolton Congregational Church (BCC) request for outdoor use of Town property for overflow seating and the outdoor consumption of alcohol on Town property.

Selectman R. DePietro **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:1**

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	Marrion

6.0 Consider and Act on Addendum to Highway Department Contract:

Town Administrator gave a high-level overview of the administrative processes taken to date – working with the Town Attorney and Chip White, Union Steward, which both are in support of the contractual changes proposed.

- Creation of Crewman 4 position (leadership role) funded by reducing Crewman 3 wages and supervisor responsibilities.

Selectman R. Fournier **MOVED to ACCEPT** the changes to the addendum to the Contract.

Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

7.0 Consider and Act on the Call for the Annual Town Meeting:

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** the call for an Annual Town Meeting as presented for May 12, 2026.

Selectman B. Aaronson **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

8.0 Consider and Act on A/P:

Selectman R. DePietro **MOVED to APPROVE** the A/P in the amount of \$167,390.18

Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED;**

Discussion:

- Discussion of health insurance costs, cyber insurance savings, and large expenditures for fire department heating.
- **Fire Department Boiler Issues:**
 - Ongoing boiler failures led to \$14,000 in temporary heating rentals.
 - Delays due to parts from Canada; total replacement cost estimated at \$50,000–\$70,000.
 - Repairs ongoing; town is halfway through boiler’s expected lifespan.

- **Town Green & Herrick Park Projects:**
 - Updates on progress; gazebo location adjusted to preserve trees.
 - Bidding for improvements is expected in May.

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

9.0 Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** the transfer of \$15,000 from the Administration Budget, category Legal Services, to the Town Building Operations for Repairs and Maintenance Services.

Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED;**

Discussion:

- Selectman B. Aaronson inquired what the money was earmarked for. Town Administrator J. Rupert reported the expenses to repair the fire department boiler, and the overall cost of materials and supplies has increased.

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** the transfer of \$2,100 from Regular Payroll to Administrative Services for the Finance Committee.

Selectman T. Salder **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to rearrange the Agenda** for the Regular April 21, 2026, BOS with A/P, and ADD Agenda Item 10 Public Comment.

Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED;**

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0

Abstain	0
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10.0 Public Comment:

- **Public Comment by Sandy.**
- **Early Voting Logistics:**
 - New state mandates require 4 tabulators for early voting; current office space is insufficient.
 - Room A in town hall identified as suitable with direct internet connectivity.
 - Need for secure, exclusive access for ballot and tabulator storage.
 - Discussion of potential need for more tabulators (state provided 8, but 12–16 may be required).
- **Election Administration:**
 - Concerns over space, equipment, and compliance with new early voting regulations.
 - Need for facility modifications and coordination among registrars, town staff, and selectmen.
- **Department Head Retirements:**
 - Questions about succession planning for Finance Director and Highway Supervisor.
 - Interim arrangements in place; permanent hiring process to be discussed.

11.0 Adjourn:

B. Aaronson **MOVED to ADJOURN** the meeting at **8:20 PM**. Selectman D. Cowles **SECONDED**.
MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo, Recording Clerk

Andrea Vassallo

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

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