

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING with A/P
Tuesday, May 19, 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
	Matthew Perreira, Deputy Fire Chief
	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary

1.0 Call to Order:

First Selectman Rodney Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2.0 Public Comment:

Jim Loersch, Brookfield Road

- Expressed ongoing concern about the town’s annual \$150,000 rental expense for trailers, questioning the return on investment and urging the town to pursue changes to this arrangement.

3.0 New Business

a. Consider an Act on Bid Waiver for Fire Department Regarding Rescue Tools.

Matthew Perreira, Bolton Deputy Fire Chief requested a bid waiver on behalf of the fire department to purchase new battery-operated “eTools” (commonly known as the jaws of life) for rescue operations.

- **Equipment Need:**
 - These tools are vital for vehicle extrication and other emergencies, offering improved reach and power compared to current equipment.
- **Budget and Procurement:**
 - \$32,000 allocated in the upcoming fiscal year’s capital budget for this purchase.
 - The department requests a bid waiver to expedite procurement, citing compatibility and operational requirements.
 - Current bid for the preferred tools stands at \$31,198, under budget.
- **Rationale for Brand Selection:**
 - The chosen brand (AMTIS) is compatible with existing tool tips and DeWalt batteries, avoiding additional costs for truck modifications and chargers.

- Other brands tested required proprietary batteries and were less compatible, with one alternative costing around \$38,000 and requiring further truck modifications.
- The department already uses DeWalt-powered tools, ensuring interoperability and easy battery replacement (e.g., buying replacements at Home Depot in emergencies).
- **Operational Advantages:**
 - The new tools offer the largest spread and highest cutting force available (e.g., 7,000 pounds).
 - Changeable tips allow various rescue scenarios: aggressive, smooth, hooked, and chain-equipped tips for pulling dashboards or wrapping around posts and trees.
 - The department estimates having 4 different types of tips, enhancing versatility.
 - The AMTIS brand has served the department since 1984, ensuring familiarity and streamlined training for members.
- **Vendor Relationship:**
 - Longstanding rapport with the supplier, including annual servicing and direct communication with company leadership, contributed to a negotiated price reduction from \$34,500 to \$31,198.
- **Warranty and Service:**
 - Tools are serviced annually, with some equipment still functioning flawlessly after 10 years.

Selectman B. Aaronson **MOVED to APPROVE bid waiver for Bolton Fire Department for Rescue Tools.** Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0**

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

b. Consider and Act on Setting the Due Date for Tax Bills.

- **To set the due date of July 1, 2026, for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle.**

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE**
 Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0**

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

- **To set the due date of July 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027, for Supplemental Motor Vehicle.**

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE**
 Selectwoman Marrion **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0**

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

4.0 Consider and Act on A/P:

Selectman M. Clarke **MOVED to APPROVE** the A/P in the amount of \$123,021.67.
 Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED;**

Discussions:

B. Aaronson: Page 1, Apex Refrigeration – \$660 for fire department repairs; cumulative costs discussed (estimated near \$12,000, well below boiler replacement cost of ~\$50,000).

G. Marrion: Page 9, Manitou Consulting Invoice, Fire Department Assessment Study – Clarification that the \$6,167.00 represents a scheduled contract deliverable, not an alternate work schedule analysis. Town Administrator J. Rupert confirmed the invoice for services was within the contractual scope of work.

G. Marrion: Page 10, Nathan Jacobson Engineering, Elm Green Improvements Preliminary Design – March 10, 2026, BOS meeting minutes reflect that the project is 95% complete. Asked if the \$3400 represents the 95% preliminary design completion costs? Town Administrator J. Rupert is confident this is the final cost but awaits a final update from the project manager.

B. Aaronson: Page 6, Halloran & Sage, Legal Service – Review of Land Use Planner Patrice Carson’s one-year contract extension; no further changes in terms or rates. Contract set to end July 1, 2026.

D. Cowles: Building rental & module furniture – Town Administrator J. Rupert reported to the BOS the new dividers to be installed June 11, 2026.

- **Building Modifications**
 - Modular furniture (5-feet tall) to be installed for under \$7,000; additional power requirements noted.
 - Purpose: improve finance department space, possibly relocate registrar of voters.
 - Installation scheduled for June 11; process did not require full bid due to low cost.
- **Registrar Relocation**
 - Ongoing discussions with Board of Education about potential space in former Board of Education area, currently used for storage and computer repair.

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

5.0 Consider and Act on Budget Transfers: None.

6.0 Approval of BOS Minutes:

a. March 10, 2026 – with A/P

Selectman Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** March 10, 2026, BOS with A/P Meeting Minutes.

Selectman Aaronson **SECONDED**;

Discussion:

B. Aaronson asked a follow-up question to Town Administrator J. Rupert regarding a field meter location (under Item 2.0, Page 1 of 4) which was determined as attached to a shed and the plan is to eliminate the monthly charge by rerouting the power.

MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:1

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

b. March 24, 2026 – with A/P

Selectman Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** March 24, 2026, BOS with A/P Meeting Minutes.

Selectman Aaronson **SECONDED**;

Discussion:

D. Cowles asked Town Administrator J. Rupert for an update of the installation of changing station in the public restroom of Bolton Public Library. Discussion ensued regarding the existing construction of the existing restroom and ADA accessibility requirements. Town staff and officials anticipate to be on site May 20, 2026, to finalize the logistics of installation and equipment vendor.

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

c. April 7, 2026 – Regular Meeting with A/P

Selectman Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** April 7, 2026, BOS Regular Meeting with A/P.

Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED**;

Discussion:

B. Aaronson, Page 5, asked a follow up question regarding clarification on the \$7,500.00 fire commission budget transfer from Equipment (vehicle repairs) to Fire Security/Maintenance (boiler maintenance).

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

7.0 Adjourn:

D. Cowles **MOVED to ADJOURN** the meeting **at 6:45 PM**. Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED**.
MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

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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