

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday, July 07, 2026, at 6:30 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:	Stephanie Smigala, Interim Finance Director
	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 Pledge of Allegiance:

The BOS pledged allegiance to the United States of America.

3.0 Public Comment:

Bob Marra, Chairman of the Bolton Veterans Commission:

- Advocated for the of the veterans' widows/widowers property tax exemption, offering support from the Veterans Commission if needed.

4.0 Appointments:

a. Elaine M. Allegretti -Temporary Building Subcommittee -Full Member (Independent)

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPOINT** Elaine M. Allegretti as a full member of the Temporary Building Subcommittee. Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED**;

Discussions:

Ms. Allegretti is an Unaffiliated voter and not registered as an Independent as listed on the agenda. She has recently retired from the school system, seeking continued civic involvement.

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

5.0 Correspondence: None.

6.0 New Business: None.

7.0 Old Business:

a. Consider and Possibly Act on Veteran's Exemptions

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to TABLE** the topic until further clarification of the draft ordinance language and shall be presented to the BOS no later than the first meeting of August 2026.

Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED**;

Discussions:

- Reviewed the statutory language (Connecticut General Statutes 12-81(2)) for granting a property tax exemption to surviving spouses of military personnel killed in action.
- Key points of discussion:
 - Whether the exemption should apply to land or just the dwelling (primary residence).
 - Clarification of terms such as "dwelling," "primary residence," and inclusion of condos and mobile homes.
 - Duration of exemption (remarriage ends eligibility).
 - Application procedure (Form 457).
 - Exclusion of portions used for commercial purposes.

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

b. Consider and Act on Applying for EMPG Yearly Grant in the Amount of \$12,000 (\$6,000 Federal, \$6,000 Match).

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPLY** for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) of \$12,000 with a \$6,000 town match. Selectman B. Aaronson **SECONDED**;

Discussions:

This grant covers about half of the emergency management budget.

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

c. Consider and Act on MOU for Highway Contract.

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to ADOPT** the MOA with requested clarification to paragraph 3 and a change from Arabic to Roman numerals. Selectman D. Cowles **SECONDED**;

Discussions:

- **Pay Structure**

The BOS discussed the revised language of the current contract which adjusted the distribution of the pay structure in order attract a wider talent pool.

- Difficulty in attracting applicants, especially for mechanic positions, due to low starting pay (initially 75% of full rate).

- **Proposed Contract Language**

Several recommendations for document consistency were discussed.

- New hires receive 90% of the pay rate during a 6-month probationary period, then 100% upon successful completion.
- Discussion on whether this applies to all positions and the need for consistent job title numerals (Roman vs. Arabic).
- Clarified job descriptions and supervision hierarchy for Crewman 3 and 4 positions.
- Noted intentional differences in required licenses (CDL A for Crewman 3, CDL B for Crewman 4).

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

8.0 Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:

Informational budget transfer requests. Approval threshold for the BOS to formally act is for transfers requests is over \$2,000.

9.0 Finance Report:

- **Monthly Expenditure Report (as of June 2026)**

- Year-to-date expenditures: \$6,190,099.27 (93.22% of FY 2026 budget).
- Slightly higher spending compared to last year.
- Expected remaining unspent funds: ~\$400,000, to go into surplus for FY27.

- **Tax Collector's Report (as of June 30, 2026)**

- Year-to-date collections: \$19,749,333 (101.61% of budgeted revenue).
- Interest collections exceeded budget (126%, \$82,000 collected vs. \$65,000 budgeted).

10.0 Town Administrator's Report:

The BOS reviewed the Town Administrator's report. First Selectman R. Fournier reviewed several topic areas from the report to share with the other BOS.

- **Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office**
 - Ongoing search for new space due to expiring lease; considering 6-month extensions.
 - Space constraints and suitability of various town facilities discussed (e.g., firehouse, maintenance, highway department, high school).
 - Early voting needs complicate space assignments.
 - Awaiting input from STV (consultants) on space utilization.
- **Other Projects**
 - Appointment of new committee members for the Temporary Building Committee.
 - School roof bonding project moving ahead, with expected bonding of \$1.2–1.6 million.
- **Dam Safety**
 - Persistent problem with people bypassing fences at the dam.
 - Discussion about installing a second fence and encouraging public complaints to CT DOT (Department of Transportation) to highlight the issue.
 - Communication issues with CT DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) – full voicemail box.

11.0 Executive Session:

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to INVITE** Interim Finance Director to participate in the Executive Session regarding Personnel matters. Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED**;

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

Start Executive Session: **7:17 PM.**

End Executive Session: **8:29 PM.**

12.0 Adjourn:

Consensus **to ADJOURN** the meeting **at 8:29 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo, Recording Clerk

Andrea Vassallo

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

Originals Printed on 100% Recycled Paper – Earth Day and Every Day

