

**Bolton Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Friday, June 24, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.
Minutes**

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on Friday, June 24, 2022 with First Selectmen Pam Sawyer presiding. Also in attendance were selectmen: Mike Eremita, Adam Teller, Robert Morra; Interim Administrative Officer Jim Rupert, Recreation Director Stephanie Crane, Kathy McCavanagh, ROV Bernice Dixon and Kawan Gordon. Missing: selectman R. DePietro

1. Call to Order

P. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Opening Indian Notch Park

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen Open Herrick Park today, Friday, June 24, 2022 at 10 am and for the remainder of the season Wednesday through Friday only from 9 am to 5 pm.

By: M. Eremita

2nd: R. Morra

Vote:

For: M. Eremita, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

Against: None

Abstain: None

3. Consider and Act on the Next Two (2) Budget Referendum Dates (Tuesday, July 12th and Tuesday, July 26th)

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen approve July 12, 2022 for the next referendum date and July 26, 2022 if needed.

By: M. Eremita

2nd: R. Morra

Discussion: Can we move the location of the referendum? Per P. Sawyer the location of the referendum is up to the ROV and they would like to keep it where it has been to keep it consistent.

Vote:

For: M. Eremita, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

Against: None

Abstain: None

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Date of Tax Bills Being Sent Out and Due Date

J. Rupert explained that at the BOF meeting last night a temporary mil rate was set. Our charters says the we must send bills out “forthwith” L. Bushnell would like to get the bills out July 1, 2022 with a due date of August 1, 2022 and then do a supplemental bill if needed in January of 2023. (Supplemental bill can be discussed at a later date).

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the tax bills go out at the approved temporary mil rate as of July 1, 2022 with a due date of August 1, 2022.

By: R. Morra

2nd: A. Teller

Discussion: P. Sawyer would like to see if an extra flyer can be put in with the tax bills stating the location of the next upcoming referendum, both the upcoming primary and election dates and how to sign up for the Bolton Bulletin and Everbridge.

Vote:

For: M. Eremita, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

Against: None

Abstain: None

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Employee Donation of Sick Time

J. Rupert explained we have a staff member who is currently out on sick leave and not expected back in until September. This person is currently out of sick time. We also have an employee from the same department who has just resigned and his last day was yesterday. He has submitted a letter asking to donate the remainder of his sick time and personal days for this other employee. (This employee’s remaining sick time is equal to about 8 weeks). In the past we have allowed employees to donate sick time to an individual who may be in need due to an extended medical absence.

A.Teller cannot support this action as the employee has already left and is not entitled to his sick time because he has left the company. Also, the cost of these 8 weeks would be about \$10,000. That’s not appropriate when our budget vote has just failed 3 times. This should be a negotiated rule for all and not on a case by case basis.

P. Sawyer agrees the employee has already left our organization and this is not fair to use his sick time that we would not compensate him for.

M. Eremita state he would be okay if current employees wanted to donated their sick time to this sick employee.

R. Morra said we should be consistent with past practice and have current employees donate time.

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen approve that current employees may donate sick time (up to 5 days) to another employee based on the model negotiated in the upcoming collective bargaining agreements.

By: A.Teller

2nd: M. Eremita

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Assessor Advertisement

J. Rupert explained that Willington is desperate for us to advertise for a current shared Assessor position between our two towns. Rupert would like to at least put the advertisement out now and hold off on hiring until the budget is approved.

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Administrator to advertise the shared Assessor position with Willington; but to hold off on any hiring until the budget is passed.

By: A.Teller

2nd: M. Eremita

Vote:

For: M. Eremita, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

Against: None

Abstain: None

7. Discussion on Both Locations for Primary and State Elections

B. Dixon stated that the Town of Bolton now has two voting districts for the primary and state elections; and these locations cannot be in the same place. The ROV is proposing Bolton Center School (BCS) gym for one location and St. Maurice Parish Hall - Ryba Hall for the second location.

M. Eremita suggested using Herrick Park. B. Dixon replied that it is not covid or ADA accessible. M. Eremita then suggested Bolton High School (BHS) as the second location but was told they have a conflict with the dates.

B. Dixon also explained there is a current conflict with what the ROV and the Town Clerk need to do for locations and legal notices for the upcoming primary and state elections. This is why a decision needs to be made today. The clerk has to have legal notices with the locations published 6 weeks prior to the elections.

District One - BCS

District Two - Ryba Hall

As soon as the referendum is over and budget is passed we need to start putting out signs and advertising where the two locations for voting will be for these districts; to try to prevent more confusion.

8. Consider and Act on Special Town Meeting Date to Approve Collective Bargaining Contracts

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen hold a hybrid Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Bolton Town Hall to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

By: A.Teller

2nd: M. Eremita

Discussion: Need to discuss allowing those on zoom being able to vote. Possibly registering ahead of time and providing I.D. before hand that allows them to have their vote counted. This should be put on the next BOS meeting agenda to discuss.

Vote:

For: M. Eremita, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

Against: None

Abstain: None

9. Adjournment

P. Sawyer adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

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