

## Annual Town Meeting – May 3, 2022

Electors and others qualified to vote at town meeting in the Town of Bolton met at the Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT on May 3, 2022. Present were: First Selectman Pam Sawyer, and Selectman Robert Morra; Michael Eremita; Adam Teller; and Robert DePietro Jr. and Interim Administrative Officer James Rupert. Also present were many members of the public and several members of the Board of Finance.

Town Meeting Moderator Mark Altermatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Altermatt then read the call of the meeting and the resolutions to be voted upon.

### Item #1

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Reports for each Board, Commission, Agency and Office be accepted as printed in the “Annual Report of the Town of Bolton,” for the year ending June 30, 2021, as published by the Board of Finance and filed with the Town Clerk.

Motion: Pam Sawyer

Second: Michael Eremita

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously.

### Item #2

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Selectmen and the Treasurer of the Town of Bolton be authorized to borrow on specific accounts, or otherwise, such sums of money from time to time, and at such times as may be necessary to meet the expenses and obligations of said Town of Bolton for the fiscal year 2022-2023, in an amount not exceeding the appropriations authorized herein.

Motion: Pam Sawyer

Second: Robert Morra

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously.

### Item #3

**RESOLVED:** That the five (5) year capital improvement plans be accepted as presented by the Board of Selectman and Board of Education in the annual budget document.

Motion: Pam Sawyer

Second: Michael Eremita

Discussion:

Sandra Pierog – 5 year capital plan contains items that are ill advised, the proposed installation of temporary office trailer placed next to Town Hall, being a historic district. Will vote no, recommends be sent back to board for reevaluation.

Richard Tuthill – Trailer would destroy historic concept, questioned using the Pistritto property for the temporary structure. Request item be removed.

Ross Lally – Agrees with others will vote no, not challenging the need but looking for better solution.

Paula Myers – Agrees definite need, questioned not having heard about expanding the Town Hall in 10 years? Suggests borrowing class rooms? Working from home?

Michael Eremita – UCONN students prepared plans for a new Town Hall, working toward permanent solution. Proposed temporary building location next to Town Hall is most convenient, easiest and cheapest location but there are other options.

Jonathan Treat – Bad mistake, terrible idea.

Gwen Marion - Speaking on behalf of Bolton Congregational Church, adamantly opposes temporary building in historic district. Will vote against capital plan.

Robert Morra – Appreciates comments, board has listened, placement doesn't have to be here but needs to be somewhere, and the town can't afford a new building until at least 2028. This is the only solution which will carry us through for 6-7 years.

John Treat – Questioned cost?

Robert Morra – New building \$2 – 4 Million, \$186, 000 temporary building.

Cathy Sprecher – Why not utilize the space the Church has offered? Definite cost savings.

Ginny Wickersham – 51 years in town, opposes temporary building.

Tim Viet – Instead of spending money on a temporary solution put funds toward a permanent solution.

Paula Myer – Is Fire House expansion included in Capital plan?

Mike Eremita – No, just study & cost analysis.

Paula Myer – Hold off on everything else and put money toward a New Town Hall.

Michael Eremita – Notch Rd. study 9 million to renovate, recommended to demolish.

Jackie Steele – Combine bond for entire project (demo & rebuild).

Dorothy Hall – Loves town green, opposes trailer.

Al Rivera – Wants more engineers opinions on Notch Rd., should be a solution other than tearing down.

Robert Morra – 4 studies have been done to save Notch Rd., more expensive to renovate than tear down. Need a solution until debt is down in 2028.

Unknown Speaker – What about using the Heritage Farm House?

Morra/Eremita – Worse shape, structurally no.

Tim Viet – Questioned Fire House study & analysis.

Mark Altermatt – Keep on agenda.

Leah Maroney – Suggests large black top area on Notch Rd. for temporary building.

Richard Treat – Other spots committee looked at?

Pam Sawyer – Veterans Field, Herrick Park, and Indian Notch all deeded for recreation only.

Richard Tuthill – Agrees the need for a temporary solution, recommends line item be removed from capitol plan.

Milton Hathaway – There is a lot of commercial zoned land in town, Bolton needs to change the way they do business.

Adam Teller – Need to look at alternatives, questioned using 2 classrooms at the Senior Center being vacated by the “Y”, meeting rooms should not be priority. If no alternatives than a temporary building is what we need to have and next time a plan comes to referendum think twice before voting it down.

Richard Treat – Opposes any temporary building in the historic area of town, explore other options. Locate temporary building at Notch Rd.

Laurie Brooks – Opposes trailer, suggest working from home and Iron Mountain for storage.

Pam Sawyer – Would like to amend the motion to remove temporary building structure from the 5 year Capital Plan.

Mark Altermatt – Questioned the legality of amending the motion and did not accept.

Pam Sawyer – Bring revised plan back to you, if you approve the capital plan tonight.

Mike Eremita – The BOS will come back with options, this was just a proposal.

Rea Klein – Questioned if a study on the classroom space at the Senior Center was done.

Mike Eremita – It's been done.

Mark Altermatt – Let's take a vote, all in favor say "I"; all opposed say "Nay".

Vote: Failed

Town Meeting Moderator, Mark Altermatt, then requested to end the meeting.

On a motion by, Robert Morra, seconded by Mike Eremita, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cynthia Chmielowiec*

Cynthia Chmielowiec  
Assistant Town Clerk