

**Board of Selectmen
January 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on January 2, 2018, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Morra and Nicole Sullivan; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; and approximately 30 members of the public.

1. Call to Order.

S. Pierog called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. December 5, 2017 Public Hearing.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by M. Eremita, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion unanimously passed.

B. December 5, 2017 Meeting.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by N. Sullivan to approve the minutes with the following corrections: throughout minutes Elizabeth S. "Kruegar" should be "Krueger". Number 9, last sentence- R. "hardy" should be "Hardy". Motion unanimously passed.

C. December 19, 2017 Special Meeting.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by N. Sullivan, to postpone approval of the minutes until the board has a chance to review them. Motion unanimously passed.

4. Correspondence: S.Pierog Resignation from Heritage Farm Commission.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by N. Sullivan, to accept the resignation from S. Pierog from the Bolton Heritage Farm Commission and, thanked S. Pierog for her time and commitment to the commission over the years. Motion unanimously passed.

5. Unfinished Business: Consider and Act on Board of Selectmen Vacancy.

S. Pierog opened the floor for discussion. E. Steele, Williams Road, stated that he believes the replacement should be a consensus candidate and it would be undemocratic to not let the voters make the decision.

R. Morra made a motion to appoint Tom Fiorentino to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Fiorentino is currently on the Board of Assessment Appeals and has served on the board for 15 years. R. Morra shared that Mr. Fiorentino is unaffiliated but has been supported over the years by both the Democratic and Republican parties. He stated that Mr. Fiorentino has considerable knowledge and background in town government.

Mr. Eremita seconded the motion stating that Mr. Fiorentino would be an asset.

S. Pierog said that she had previously stated that any candidate needed to attend the meeting to permit discussion between the board and the proposed candidate. Since Mr. Fiorentino was not present, she could not support the motion. She also commented that the voters elected three women to the board.

N. Sullivan stated that she had not met Mr. Fiorentino and believed that the current board should support the candidate that had run for the Board of Selectmen by honoring the voters' choice. Otherwise, Selectmen should put it back to the voters to decide. She added her concerns about the process and Ms. Krueger's intentions when she ran and was elected to the Board of Selectmen, not First Selectman. M. Eremita stated that Ms. Krueger had run for the Board of Selectmen in good faith. No dishonesty existed. He added that the process that is laid out in the charter and statutes is the process that is being followed.

S. Pierog agreed that she did not really know Mr. Fiorentino.

R. Morra stated that Mr. Fiorentino had to work and was unable to attend the meeting but that he had a proven record in Bolton.

Peter Bradley, Norma's Way, expressed his concerns since half the board did not know Mr. Fiorentino.

Trish Brudz, Hanover Farms Road, asked if Mr. Fiorentino could serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals and Board of Selectmen.

R. Morra stated that he could serve on both.

Barbara Amodio, Volpi Road, asked why not Kim Miller for the vacancy?

R. Morra responded that Mr. Fiorentino is a compromise to fill the position.

N. Sullivan responded that by statute it does not need to be a republican.

Mr. Morra stated that Mr. Fiorentino ran on the democratic ticket for years. When not supported by them in this election, the republicans endorsed him and his affiliation became unaffiliated.

Mary Terhune, School Road, stated her support for Ms. Miller since the Town is traditionally not faced with a situation where votes are tied and the coin toss is the only reason she is not on the board.

Mr. Morra responded that representation should include all sides not just democrats.

N. Sullivan stated Ms. Miller was unaffiliated prior.

Paula Meyers, Country Club, asked if she was unaffiliated, would she be a possible candidate?

P. Bradley noted that Mr. Fiorentino, unaffiliated, was not acceptable and no democrat including Ms. Miller was acceptable. He questioned the logic of Mr. Fiorentino over Ms. Miller.

Cheryl Udin, Keeney Drive, added that the position now vacant had been held by a woman.

M. Eremita responded that gender had not been part of the decision to put forward Mr. Fiorentino.

R. Morra stated that the decision to put forward Mr. Fiorentino was not gender related. It was tied to the candidate and his record. Further, he asked that debate be between Board of Selectmen members only.

Adam Teller, Elizabeth Road, shared that there should be respect for all people who run for office. Residents voice opinions at the polls, making Ms. Miller the only person who should fill the vacancy. He was not sure why or how Mr. Fiorentino was chosen to fill the vacancy. He

shared his concerns about the process and supported sending filling the vacancy back to the voters if the Selectmen could not agree.

Karen Bergin, South Road, added that the public should be a part of the process and, only a couple of people should not appoint the individual.

John Treat, Bolton Center Road, asked if there was any other candidate.

S. Pierog responded that at the last meeting, motion to appoint a candidate failed.

A motion was made by N. Sullivan, seconded by S. Pierog, to move the question. Motion unanimously passed.

S. Pierog called for a vote on Mr. Fiorentino filling the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen.

Motion failed with Mr. Morra and Mr. Eremita voting yes and, S. Pierog and N. Sullivan voting no. No other candidate at this time. S Pierog will send a letter to the Town Clerk stating that the Board of Selectmen did not fill the vacancy. The Town Clerk will notify the three republican Town Officers (Catherine Peterson, Robert Morra and Michael Eremita) that they now have 60 days from the resignation to fill the vacancy. A petition for a special election may also occur.

6. New Business:

A. Consider and Act on Deputy First Selectman.

Any action was postponed.

B. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension.

S. Pierog shared information on the DOT informational meeting held on December 6th.

Information is posted on the Town's website including the questionnaire.

J. Stille added that the construction project was in winter shut down although they will continue to do tasks as weather permits. Tom Manning, School Road, suggested that a study committee be formed to look at better access for cyclists to use roads such as Bolton Center Road. This may include jersey barriers, striping and signage.

R. Morra responded that the Trails Committee works on items such as this but Bolton Center Road being a state road is not directly something the Town could change.

Gwen Marrion, Maple Valley Road, asked the Trails Committee be kept informed of trail related items in between the committee's meetings.

Matthew Cooley, Vernon, shared his concerns about safely being able to get off and on trails. Not many safe access points exist.

Ernie Pierog added that there were not any bicycle supply or repair shops close to us at all.

J. Stille stated that this is a niche for economic development that has been noted and suggested for both Route 6 and 44.

C. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report.

S. Pierog shared that she and J. Stille had met with Shelly Jewel, President of Friends of Bolton Lake, Lake Commissioner Kim Welch and Representative Robin Green to review the substantial lake work completed to date, continued monitoring, Towns ongoing commitment and joint cooperative efforts.

D. FY18 Budget.

J. Stille shared that current year's budget is 43.88% expensed. The impact of the recent storms and cold weather will begin to appear in next month's budget summary. For tax collection, personal property and real estate taxes collected through November 30, 2017 is at 99.94% of the 98% listed in the budget.

E. FY19 Budget.

J. Stille shared the schedule of budget workshops with one change. The January 16th workshop has been cancelled and the Highway Department will be part of the February 13th workshop.

F. Consider and Act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by M. Eremita, to approve the transfer of \$4,500.00 from the Tax Collector's other payroll line item to the Fringe Benefits unemployment line item. This is to cover unemployment claims which exceed the budget. Due to a vacancy in the part time Tax Collector shared position, funds are available in the other payroll line item. Motion unanimously passed.

G. Consider and Act on Federal Fiscal Year 2017 State Homeland Security Grand Funding Resolution.

A motion was made by M. Eremita, seconded by R. Morra, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Bolton Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sandra Pierog, as First Selectman of Town of Bolton Board of Selectmen is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Bolton and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Motion unanimously passed.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Reports.

None. S. Pierog reminded the board about the upcoming 3 board meetings, January 22nd on insurance and January 31st on Columbia outreach.

B. Properties and Facilities.

None.

C. Revenue Sources.

J. Stille shared information on state reductions/hold backs versus our tax revenue including the one mil increase. Just considering these items, the Town is still at \$43,906 positive position. This does not take into account any other revenues or unanticipated additional appropriations

that may occur.

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. Tax Deferral Program for the Elderly Ordinance.

S. Pierog reported that due to the holidays, we have not finalized our consultation with the Town Attorney as to if another public hearing is necessary.

B. Other Updates.

S. Pierog shared that Ray Hardy had moved one of the bobcat traps to the Warner's Swamp area.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Moody's Report.

J. Stille shared that as a result of the conference call and information provided to Moody's, the Town of Bolton has maintained its bond credit rating. Moody's cited the Town as benefitting from a stable financial position supported by formal policies, conservative budgeting and willingness to raise taxes.

B. Nathan Hale Greenway.

J. Stille reported that the consultants, BSC Group, will hold informational meetings on their work to date on January 18th in Coventry and January 25th in Bolton. Information will be posted on the Town's website and in the Bolton Bulletin. In addition, she reported that the property boundaries had been posted in Bolton and Coventry as part of this project.

10. Appointments.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by M. Eremita, to reappoint Richard Hayes Jr. to the Bolton Lakes Water Pollution Control Authority. Term is to 12/31/20. Motion unanimously passed.

11. Adjournment.

A motion was made by R. Morra, seconded by M. Eremita, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:14 p.m. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Officer

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