

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL MINUTES**

		Present	Absent
First Selectman	Sandra Pierog	X	
Deputy First Selectman	Kim Miller	X	
Selectman	Robert DePietro	X	
Selectman	Mike Eremita	X	
Selectman	Robert Morra	X	
Administrative Officer (Staff)	Joshua Kelly	X	
Members of the Public			

Also present: Nick Lavigne, J. Collins, Mark Chapman

1. Call to Order:

By: Sandra Pierog

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Place: Virtual

2. Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

3. Approval of Minutes:

November 10, 2020, Regular Meeting

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020, regular meeting.

By: DePietro

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: Eremita

4. Appointments:

None

Pierog mentioned there have been resignations from the Economic Development Committee. There will be a discussion about this committee at the Finance meeting to see where it is going in the short and long term. Other than the Welcome to Bolton signs this committee has been inactive.

5. Correspondence:

None

6. Reports & Updates:

A. Subcommittee Reports

None

B. Properties and Facilities Report

Staff said the tennis courts are finished but nets will not be put up until the Spring. The nets will be installed by the contractor's team.

Staff said the UConn Engineers Seniors have produced a report about Town Hall. Staff thinks the storm water study students will have a report by the end of the semester.

The work for Enrico will be done before Christmas. The work will be done without major excavation.

Eremita said the Fire Department has sent a letter regarding a study to do an addition to the station. Staff said when he received the information a request to the 2022 Capital Reserve Allocation was proposed. Eremita feels if it is part of the 2022 program the project will not be close to potential bonding for 2023. Pierog would not agree with that. Once the budget is passed a firm can be engaged to do the work. When a firm is hired it should be told that timeliness is important.

C. Open Space Management & Acquisition

A report from Gwen Marrion was received providing an update on the work done on Deming Road to mitigate the beaver damage. The installation is complete and visible from the side of the road. It is working very well. The installation allows the beavers to build a dam along an array of wire farther back to allow water to flow over the dam and into the pipe. Water is now starting to come through the pipe. All seems to be well with the reasonable solution. The Town will pay \$200 per year for a couple of years to Beaver Solutions to check on the device yearly. Once Town Staff understands how the installation works they will be doing the inspections. DePietro said there have been a couple of problems and camouflage cameras are in place.

There will be an update on the Nathan Hale Greenway next month. Staff has reached out to CTDOT about the sight lines along the highway. Joe Dillon has the specifics for the in ramp and how to design it. Dillon is working on a price estimate.

Morra said that Larry Pease contacted him with the concern of Pease's use of the land on the Perrachio property. Is his lease going to be renewed or is it being looked at to something different with the property? He received a letter from Kathy. Pierog said the lease pull back was possible on Heritage Farm. Perrachio's property abuts Herrick Park and Pease farms the portion next to Tessier's. Perrachio's property is about 10 acres with one-third of it tillable. Staff will find out what Kathy sent him; it may have been a renewal letter. There is no intent to change Pease's lease in any shape or form.

D. Lower Bolton Lake Report

Staff reporting there is still work on the draft watershed management plan for the lakes. This is a way to use the rest of the STEAP money before the end of the year. The survey results need to be in the plan. The majority of surveys received are from Bolton. Staff will reach out to Vernon, Coventry, and Tolland for survey participation. The survey is live until December 20, 2020 and is available on the town's social medias pages or the website.

E. FY 21 Budget Report

Collections Report shows a 97.82% collection rate as of 10-31.

Expenditures Report as of 11-30-2020 shows over than expected expenditures for Land Use at 45.20% and Elections at 47.51% with rational reasons for this. This is a year of a presidential election, the only one shown on the document. In addition, Elections had to ensure a secure and safe from COVID-19 voting experience requiring the purchase of additional equipment. For Land Use, Patrice Carson has been working diligently to make sure Bolton qualified for a Sustainable CT designation. Therefore, she has not taken some well-deserved time off.

Eremita said he was thoroughly impressed with elections people in how they handled the polling and the move to a different location. The process went as smooth as silk. Pierog agrees. Morra said they handled heavy crowds and made it work.

7. Ongoing Business

A. Consider and possibly act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests

Proposed FY 2021 Transfers - December 1, 2020					
\$	103.00	To	Office Operation Supplies - Fire Commission	From	\$ 103.00 Repairs & Maintenance - Fire Commission
<i>Rationale: Patrially due to COVID-19, the Fire Commission has had to purchase more supplies this year than they originally anticipated. The Fire Chief has indicated that these funds can be transferred out of the Repairs & Maintenance line.</i>					
\$	935.00	To	Office Supplies - Elections	From	\$ 935.00 Payroll - Elections
<i>Rationale: Largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Elections office was required to acquire more supplies than they usually do. As a result, a transfer is needed, but the money can easily be taken from the Payroll line as the Elections office did not hire as many people as they usually do to work the Primary, as too many people in the room would have been against COVID restrictions.</i>					

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfers as requested.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Miller, Eremita

Against: None

Abstain: None

Eremita said the Fire Department took the new watercraft out for a test run. It is performing well above expectations. Went to Coventry Lake because they have not lowered it yet. The watercraft is everything we could ask for and more. The front dive platform can be lowered and raised by a single man in the boat. The seats are movable and has a flat floor so you can do CPR while still on the water.

B. Other

None

9. New Business:

A. Consider and possibly act on a resolution for bond refunding

Pierog said the BOS had talked about this in the past. It didn't look like it would be worth it. However, Pierog, Staff, and Jill met with Mark Chapman about a proposal he put together. The proposal is about reissuing the \$3 mill. of bonds existing after the payment made this year with the drop in the interest rate which offsets the cost and an overall savings in interest over the remaining life of the bonds.

Mark Chapman presented the information he gathered and is in the agenda packet. A savings of 6.144% can be achieved without extending the terms of the bonds. The numbers will fluctuate until the refunding is completed. This cannot be done any faster than 90 days of the call, but there is not much concern of the interest rates going up. However, market volatility is there. If the market is not good we can put the refunding on pause. The lead time is for pricing and closing in February 2021. This is an aggressive schedule with the holidays and constraints of COVID-19. We would not do this if the costs exceeds the savings.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$3,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN OF BOLTON'S \$4,345,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2012; AND COSTS RELATED THERETO

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, to be applied together with the investment earnings thereon, to the payment in whole or in part, as determined by the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town, of the outstanding principal of and interest on the Town's \$4,345,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2012 (consisting of \$3,695,000 School Bonds and \$650,000 General Purpose Bonds), including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign the bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(b) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

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(c) That the First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(d) That the First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Refunded Bonds, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(e) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2022.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen adopt the resolution for bond refunding.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Discussion: We've done a number of these over the years and we've saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. Pierog commended Chapman for presenting this option.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Miller, Eremita

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. Review of the draft FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan

Pierog said the entire plan is in the packet. The bottom line at \$1,014,500 is not going to happen and of bonded money at \$2,120,000. Certain of these be postponed or otherwise funded.

Pierog proposes to take \$25k out of Heritage Farm for this year, take out Notch Road Municipal Center and move to 2023, take out the vault floor and move it to 2023, and town hall paving for 2023. Those changes will get close to a taxpayer ask of \$525,000.

Morra said it makes sense to move out items that are not critical.

Eremita said regarding the skid/steer – perhaps a good used one can be found to suit the needs or prove that the piece of equipment is not needed.

This will go to CAPP next. They will meet and discuss this year's proposal while still keeping a look to the future. Staff will make the changes proposed by Pierog and bring that back to the BOS.

Pierog said that Staff has done a really good job with the backup sheets for the details.

C. Other

None

9. First Selectman's Report:

A. COVID-19

Bolton is now at 62 cumulative COVID-19 cases. School is still operating in a hybrid method which is similar to most of those designated as a red town. Positivity rate is over 15 per 1,000. Vernon and Mansfield are offering outside testing, but those are closed in bad weather. Call 211 or check the State of CT website for testing options.

B. Other

None

10. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Administrator's Goals

Staff spoke about Shared Services being an ongoing goal for the town. A short term

agreement was written up for Andover to use the Bolton Building Official for one month. Jim has time to make this happen. The pricing is higher than Andover is used to so they are pondering this. This was brought forward before another nearby town came forth.

Staff thanked Morra and Pierog for responding to the scheduling for diversity training. He is waiting to hear back from the other BOS members.

In the two weeks following Thanksgiving the library is going to curbside pick-up only. This will also be the case for the two weeks following Christmas.

B. Four- Town Economic Vitality Group

A full report is available on the website with an Executive Summary on page 3. There are a number of different areas suggested for Advance CT to take to capitalize on. A road map was given for the first few years of items to tackle.

DePietro asked how people can volunteer for the subcommittees. Staff said how the subcommittees will look like and a short list of those interested in serving will be brought to the BOS. DePietro is interested is volunteering.

C. Other

None

11. Adjournment:

Motion: I move to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Miller, Eremita

Against: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne B. Filip

Yvonne B. Filip, Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary

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