TOWN OF BOLTON **BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING** TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021, 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	Χ.	
Interim Administrative Officer	Jim Rupert	X	,
Members of the Public			

Also present: Nick Lavigne, Lori Bushnell

1. Call to Order:

By: Sandra Pierog Time: 7:03 p.m.

Place: Virtual

2. Public Comment:

No one was present to speak.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Pierog said the approval of the minutes for the April 12, 2021 special meeting needs to be added to this agenda. Pierog said the minutes from April 12 and May 10 did not have page numbers – these are a huge help and should be used on the documents.

Corrections:

- Page 1, item 3, first paragraph, fourth sentence change "Sandy" to "Sandra".
- Page 2, second paragraph, second sentence change "teller" to "Teller".

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen accept the minutes of the April 12, 2021, special meeting with the suggested corrections.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Miller, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

A. May 4, 2021, Regular Meeting

Corrections:

- Page 1, Also present add "Dixon" after "Bernice"; correct "Udine" to "Udin".
- Page 5, line item Capital Improvement Trailer the correct dimensions are 20' x 8.5'.
- Page 6 after the voting Pierog stuff missing in that paragraph. Go back for a rewrite
 of this section. Proposed rewrite or addition from Eremita. Postpone until next the
 meeting.
- Page 10, item C, second paragraph, last sentence change "Prestredo" to "Pistritto".
- Page 11, item B, second sentence add "Heckman" after "Randy"; add "Palazzini" after "Danielle".
- Page 11, item B, third sentence add to the beginning of the sentence "Rupert said".

Eremita said on page 6 after the voting tally there is information missing in that paragraph. Eremita said he thinks that should be reviewed for a rewrite of the section. Pierog said this is not a transcript. Eremita can provide a proposed rewrite or addition to the paragraph. Pierog said the approval of the minutes will be held until the next meeting. Pierog said the above mentioned corrections will be carried over until the next meeting and be a part of the approval of the minutes of the May 4, 2021 regular meeting.

B. May 10, 2021, Special Meeting

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021, special meeting as corrected.

Corrections:

- Page 3, second paragraph from the bottom, second paragraph remove "just the fire truck" and add "all items".
- Page 4, eighth paragraph, first sentence change "fire department" to "Board of Selectmen".

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Miller, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

4. Appointments:

None

Pierog reminded Eremita and Morra that we have not received any interested parties for the diversity committee from the Republican side of the political spectrum.

5. Reports & Updates:

A. Subcommittee Report

None

B. Properties and Facilities Report

None

C. Open Space Management & Acquisition

None

D. FY 21 Budget Report

Rupert said everything is on track with spending; nothing is unbalanced at this point. Some small transfers have been done; these are nothing extraordinary.

Pierog said Jim Rupert and Jill Collins went through the budget line by line and identified an additional \$70,000 mostly in amounts in the range of \$1,500 - \$2,000. The Board of Finance did not make additional reductions other than the \$130,000 due to the medical insurance transfer to the State Partnership Plan. The Board of Education's report of \$64,499 in medical savings is offset the special education costs that will be incurred next year.

Pierog said the Board of Finance set the number for the referendum. Rupert recalled the number being around \$23 mill. Eremita said it is just over a 3% tax increase; 3% has been the percentage that makes it or breaks it. The mil rate potential is 40.16. Pierog said her notes indicate the final budget number to be \$23,073,494.

6. Ongoing Business

A. Return of Unspent Funds from FY 2021

This item was discussed above.

B. Report on Budget Transfers

The transfers that Rupert and Pierog were authorized to make was in the Member's packet. Pierog said the second to last item should be To Fire Comm.-Professional Training From Fire Comm. - Other Payroll.

C. Other

Pierog said she received an email from John Elsesser, Town Manager of Coventry, saying the bill to extend the sewer line was approved by the House and was signed by the Governor last week. The line will be extended to the shopping center on Route 44 in Coventry.

Morra said there may have been some issues with a high water table. The Legislature approved the expansion a week after DEEP decided it was okay to expand the line and stepped back. This has been on a four year track to get to this point for the short distance. The stub into Coventry was originally approved and is in place. Coventry paid for the stub. This is good news for the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority with the revenue that will be brought in.

Pierog said in response to Mr. Ansaldi's request discussed at the last meeting – Iroquois Trail has been monitored for parking issues and in no case has Town staff seen more than one car parked on the Trail. And the car was parked away from the intersection or anyone's property. This will continue to be monitored. Town staff is checking the

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situation on weekends, too. Morra said he goes by this area twice a day and he has seen literally one car.

7. New Business:

None

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. Update on Board of Finance Actions on Budget

Pierog said this was discussed previously. Also, the Executive Order to allow for 'no excuse absentee ballot' was renewed by the Governor. The application for such a ballot is currently available on the home page of the Town's web site. The ballots should be available for mailing by the beginning of next week. The drop box for completed ballots will reappear outside the Town Clerk's office.

B. COVID-19

DePietro asked when the Senior Center will be reopened. Pierog said there are no definitive plans yet. Town staff will be back together at work on June 7. Staff is in the planning stage for reopening the Town Hall for business, the library, and the Senior Center.

Pierog said after staying at 287 cases for a week a new case occurred over the weekend. Overall, Bolton's over 65 population is 100% fully vaccinated. The state average for that age group is 89.9%. For those in the age group of 45-64 Bolton has 64% with one dose while the Connecticut average is 82.1%. In the 15-44 age group Bolton is at 62% compared to the state's percentage of 64.7%. Those numbers are not changing. One percent for Bolton is 50 people. Our over 65 age group has done a fantastic job. Pierog said the Department of Public Health is using 2019 population data. Bolton should be at the state average. Bolton remains at five fatalities. Most of the new cases have been in the 12-64 age range. One advantage of Bolton not being up to the state average is the younger age groups are not in the high risk category.

C. Other

Pierog said the Annual Report is back from the printer and is available at the Town Clerk's office. Rupert will check that it is published on the Town website.

10. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Update on Employee Health Benefit Change

Rupert said open enrollment went very smoothly. Although Staff is not happy about changing insurance again the feedback received is that staff is please about this change. The employees feel this is a better plan and appreciates the change even if they have to do things differently. Rupert said this plan is similar to what he enjoyed when he came to work for the town fourteen years ago. Such a plan makes public service more attractive to some employees. It is the attitude, atmosphere, and the benefits that keep the employees with the Town of Bolton.

B. Update on Fire Truck Repairs

Rupert spoke to Chief Dixon. The engine and transmission were removed. Currently the radiator is being rebuilt. The work is progressing with completion closer to 30 days versus 60. Chief Dixon will be making a visit to the vendor in Middletown.

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Eremita said the department is pleased that this is moving along. The engine going in is comparable to what was taken out.

Rupert said the department responded to one fire without this truck. The response from Bolton and others was well done. Eremita said hats off to the Cadets. They did an outstanding job for people just coming into the department.

Pierog said the radiator cost was in the general vicinity of \$3,600. The radiator could have sucked in something it should not have when the seals blew. It is easy to repair a radiator while it is out of the truck. Eremita said the rebuild is a prudent move. Radiator was around 3600 in the general vicinity.

C. Other

There has been a bear running around town with one sighting on Watrous Road near the Rail Trail. Bear safe information from DEEP has been on social media and will be on the Bolton Bulletin later this week.

An OWL device was purchased last week. This sits on a conference table with cameras and microphones. The camera moves to the person speaking. This is intended for hybrid meetings.

11. Executive Session

A. Regarding Potential Litigation, Including Tax Collector, Town Attorney and Interim Town Administrator

Motion: I move that the Board of Selectman enter Executive Session to include Lori Bushnell, Tax Collector, Richard Barger, Town Attorney, and Jim Rupert, Interim Town Administrator.

By: Morra

Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Miller, DePietro, Eremita

Against: None Abstain: None

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. The Board existed Executive Session at 8:17 p.m.

B. Possible Action on Potential Litigation

Motion: I move that the Board of Selectman empower Town Attorney Richard Barger to work with Tax Collector Lori Bushnell to begin the foreclosure process for the property located at 65 Shoddy Mill Road.

By: DePietro

Seconded: Miller

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Voting

For: Pierog, Morra, Miller, DePietro, Eremita

Against: None

Abstain: None

D. Regarding Supervisor's Contract Negotiations

E. Discussion on MidNeroc Settlement

Motion: I move that the Board of Selectman enter Executive Session to discuss Supervisor's Contract Negotiations and the MidNeroc Settlement and to include Jim Rupert, Interim Town Administrator.

By: Morra

Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Miller, DePietro, Eremita

Against: None Abstain: None

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. The Board existed Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Pierog at 8:57 p.m.

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.

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Town of Bolton

222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD • BOLTON, CT 06043

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021- 6 P.M. VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Selectmen held a Special meeting on June 21, 2021 virtually by zoom with First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. Also in attendance were Selectmen: Robert Morra and Michael Eremita; and Administrative Officer James Rupert. Absent were Selectmen: Kimberly Miller and Robert DePietro.

1. Call to Order

Sandra Pierog called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Consider and Act on Second Referendum Date and Location and Further Interval Date Spans if Needed

Sandra Pierog asked if there was a motion to set the second referendum date for June 29th at Ryba Hall, St. Maurice Church from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Motion: I move to set the second referendum date for June 29th at Ryba Hall, St. Maurice Church, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

By: Robert Morra

Seconded: Michael Eremita

Discussion: None

Voting for: Robert Morra, Michael Eremita, Sandra Pierog

Against: None Abstain: None

Passed unanimously.

Sandra Pierog stated that if the June 29th referendum failed then moving two weeks out after the June 29th date will put us at July 13th then July 27th.

Motion: I move to set the interval dates for the additional referendums if needed after June 29th as July 13th and July 27th from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. at Ryba Hall, St. Maurice Church again.

By: Michael Eremita

Seconded: Robert Morra

Discussion: None

Voting for: Robert Morra, Michael Eremita, Sandra Pierog

Against: None

Abstain: Note

Passed unanimously.

Sandra Pierog shared that she had checked the town charter in regards to having heard we can only have 3 or 4 referendums. She stated that there is no limit to the number of referendums we can have. The only thing the charter states is that if the budget does not pass by the beginning of the next fiscal year then the Board of Finance should set a temporary mil rate not higher than the current one and then we should send out additional bills. She also said that both James Rupert and she have had contact with the Tax Collector Lori Bushnell, and she is of the opinion that if the budget passes on June 29th they could get the bills out by mid-July and is recommending that we put an interest free date until September 1st. Sandra then said this was something that could be voted on at the July meeting.

3. Consider and Possibly Act on a Resolution to Allow the Town to Apply for a \$15,000 Grant to Help with the Preparation of an Affordable Housing Plan as Required by the State By Next Summer.

Sandra Pierog shared this grant is for the Affordable Housing Plan which is state mandated. Jim Rupert stated that there is no monetary match needed for this grant; but this grant is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. So, we'd like to get this approved as soon as possible.

Motion: I move to adopt the resolution verbatim as written. (See attachment 3)

By: Robert Morra

Seconded: Michael Eremita

Discussion: None

Voting for: Robert Morra, Michael Eremita, Sandra Pierog

Against: None Abstain: None

Passed Unanimously.

4. Approval of Correction to Motion in the Board of Selectmen Minutes from May 4, 2021 – Page 3 of 12, Revised Motion Should Read: I move to allow the First Selectman and the Interim Town Administrator to approve budget transfers of \$5,000 or less, to be reported to the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting, until the end of the current fiscal year.

Sandra Pierog reported the May 4th minutes say: I move to allow the First Selectmen and Interim Town Administrator to approve expenditures of \$5,000 or less—expenditures should be changed to read budget transfers and until the end of the year should be changed to read until the end of the fiscal year.

Motion: I move to make these corrections to the May 4, 2021 minutes.

By: Michael Eremita Seconded: Robert Morra

Discussion: None

Vote for: Robert Morra, Michael Eremita, Sandra Pierog

Against: None Abstain: None

Passed unanimously

5. Report on Transfers Approved between June 1 and June 18, 2021.

Sandra Pierog shared for information purposes only attached are 4 budget transfer items for which approval was granted prior to June 18th, and there are a flurry of additional requests for transfers which are

still under consideration.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting concluded at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

See minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.

TOWN OF BOLTON **BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING** TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021, 7:00 P.M. VIRTUAL **MINUTES**

		Present	Absent
First Selectman	Sandra Pierog	Х	
Deputy First Selectman	Kim Miller		Х
Selectman	Robert DePietro	X arrived 7:15 p.m.	
Selectman	Mike Eremita	х	
Selectman	Robert Morra	Х	
Interim Administrative Officer	Jim Rupert	х	
Members of the Public			

Also present: John Toomey, Nick Lavigne, Paula Meyers, Amanda Gordon, Kawan Gordon, Jennifer Cyr, Dr. Rhea Klein, Cheryl U., Kathy McCavanagh

1. Call to Order:

By: Sandra Pierog Time: 7:02 p.m.

Place: Virtual

2. Public Comment:

Paula Meyers, 270 Country Club Road – Wants to take this opportunity, even though we are still in the gray area of not being out of the woods, to thank the BOS, BOE, BOF, Town employees and volunteers who have gotten us here (through this pandemic) considering the fact there was not a notebook to follow. As a citizen of Bolton she thanks all of you. Pierog added thank you to our first responders who have provided services during these trying times.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. May 4, 2021, Regular Meeting

Corrections mentioned at the previous meeting before a vote on the matter was postponed:

- Page 1, Also present add "Dixon" after "Bernice"; correct "Udine" to "Udin".
- Page 5, line item Capital Improvement Trailer the correct dimensions are 20' x 8.5'.
- Page 6 after the voting Pierog stuff missing in that paragraph. Go back for a rewrite of this section. Proposed rewrite or addition from Eremita. Postpone until next the meeting.
- Page 10, item C, second paragraph, last sentence change "Prestredo" to "Pistritto".
- Page 11, item B, second sentence add "Heckman" after "Randy"; add "Palazzini" after

"Danielle".

• Page 11, item B, third sentence – add to the beginning of the sentence "Rupert said".

Pierog had a question for the Selectmen – do you want minutes or transcripts of the meetings? Should the minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting stand as is or reflect the changes submitted by Eremita? If the vote is in favor of Eremita's correction Pierog will ask that the meetings of the current fiscal year be transcribed and transcriptions submitted for every meeting hereafter. Eremita said he thinks the minutes should be transcripts because there are recordings. He thinks the BOS should have actual transcripts. Eremita was displeased with what went on at that meeting and he did the transcript of that portion of the meeting. He takes this as an isolated incident. The meeting was unpleasant. Eremita feels the entire discussion of item 7B be included in the minutes

Correction submitted on July 6, 2021 by Eremita for item 7B:

Following vote on budget transfers:

Audio Tape Time 44 Minutes and 50 Seconds

First Selectman Sandra Pierog:

I do want to mention to the Fire Department that I voted yes because and I'd like the minutes to reflect this, that I voted yes because of Bob Morra's and Bob DePietro and Kim's suggestions that this was a temporary solution to a long-time problem. It is not a free pass to future expenditures like this, in my mind. It is also not a free pass to willy-nilly coming up with expenditures that you expect the town to fund.

Fire Commissioner Cheryl Udin:

I think that is an inappropriate comment Sandy, the willy-nilly. I don't think as Fire Commissioner, and I have been on the Fire Department and Fire Commission a number of years and Chair of that Department that we willy-nilly come up with things for the Town to purchase for us. I find that comment totally inappropriate! Selectman Michael Eremita:

I agree

First Selectman Sandra Pierog:

Perhaps I was out of line, I will ask that the minutes not reflect that comment. But I do want to make it very clear to the Fire Department that I expect procedures to be followed and the correct procedure is to bring... and I know Mr. Rupert shared that with at your last Fire Commission meeting Because I listened to the entire tape. That if you have a request for a capital item, please put it in your Five-Year Plan. Please put it in the Five-Year Plan. Even if you decide it's something the town cannot afford at that point in time. Please put it in the Five-Year Plan so it is not a surprise to the voters, to the Board of Selectmen and to the Capital Improvement Plan Commission. Selectman Michael Eremita:

Sandy, can I comment on that? I completely agree that everything should go in the Capital Plan. But will also comment that when the Town Administrator, who you supervise comes to the Fire department and says we have some money/funds this year left over what do you need, and we (the Fire Department) give him an answer or her an

answer that it's not us (the Fire Department) circumventing the process. The Town circumvented the process by coming to the Fire Department and asking what do you need. Had that not happened then we would not be in this situation. So, I would recommend that the Town Administrator whoever it may be either Jim or whoever not make those comments to staff anymore. Unless they want staff to request items they need.

First Selectman Sandra Pierog:

That item has been addressed with the former Administrator and the current Administrator and future expenditures will have a cost limit. Future items like that will have a cost limit attached to them. As long as I am first Selectman.

Audio Tape Time 48 Minutes and 20 Seconds

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen add the entire transcript, with some language corrections, for the portion of the meeting as submitted by Eremita.

By: Eremita Seconded: Morra

Discussion: Morra said it reflects what occurred. Pierog said Eremita's childish reactions of the previous meeting were not recorded in the minutes. Eremita said let's not bring up childish actions because that is why we are here. He was unhappy and angry at that previous meeting.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita Against: Pierog Abstain: None

Pierog asked the Recording Clerk to provide transcripts for all BOS meetings from January 1, 2020 through the current date including this meeting.

DePietro was present at 7:15

B. June 1, 2021, Regular Meeting

This item was postponed.

C. June 21, 2021 – Special Meeting

This item was postponed.

4. Correspondence

A. Letter from Bolton Republican Town Committee

Pierog said the letter is asking the BOS to open all Town buildings. There will be a discussion on this later in the meeting. Herrick Park has been open for a month and is available for rental. The Notch Building will not reopen during the cooling season as the fans are not a good way of circulating air. Morra said the request for the town to open the facilities is geared more toward the library, Senior Center, and Town Hall. Eremita said we are getting closer to opening buildings but it is best to err on the side of caution. We can't

let our guard down because people are upset buildings are not opening.

Pierog said there was one case reported over the weekend bringing the total cases to 297. Vaccination rates have not increased in 22-44 age range keeping us 10 percentage points below the State average. Morra said the most vulnerable people by age are at almost a 100% vaccination rate. Eremita said you will not get 100% protection. The 20-40 year old age group coming into contact with senior citizens keeps them at risk. The more people we can get vaccinated the safer it is.

B. Memo From BOF Regarding Meeting Dates for the Remainder of 2021

Pierog said this memo reflects the BOF moving the remainder of the meetings through the end of the year to Wednesday instead of Thursday. The Chairperson of the BOF has returned to graduate school causing a conflict with the regular meeting schedule.

5. Appointments:

- A. Conservation Commission
- **B.** Heritage Farm Commission
- C. Bentley Memorial Library Board
- D. Senior Citizen's Commission
- E. Fire Commission
- F. Inland Wetlands Commission
- G. Energy Committee
- H. Diversity Committee
- I. Lake Commissioner
- J. Interim Building Official
- K. Interim Zoning Agent

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5. Appointments
        A. Conservation Commission

    Rodney Parlee — Full Time
    Brenda V. Cataldo — Full Time

        B. Heritage Farm Commission
                  1. Cara Wraight - Full Time
        C. Bentley Memorial Library Board
                  1. Brook Nowak - Full Time
                  2. Dorothy R. Neil - Full Time
                  3. Rebecca Holliman - Full Time
                  4. Claire Fazzina — Full Time
5. Ulana S. Hryn — Full Time
                   6. Kelly Goldsnider – Full Time
        D. Senior Citizen's Commission
                  1. Paula S. Friez - Full Time
        E. Fire Commission
                  1. Cheryl Udin - Not Seeking Reappointment
                  2. John Roback - ineligible for Reappointment (Non-Resident)
        F. Inland Wetlands Commission
                  1. David Ostafin – Not Seeking Reappointment
                 2. James P. Loersch - Full Time
3. Andrew Gordon - Going From
       G. Energy Committee
                  1. Richard Dziadul - Full Time
       H. Diversity Commission
                  1. Amanda Gordon
                  2. Cheryl Udin
                  3. Daniel Bergin
                  4. Gracie Benson
                  5. Jaime Guadalupe Ortega
                  6. Jennifer Cyr
                  7. John B. Toomey Jr.
                  8. Kawan Gordon
                  9. Paula Meyers
                  10. Rhea Klein
       t. Lake Commissioner
                 1. Kim Welch - Full Time
       J. Interim Building Official
       K. Interim Zoning Agent
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Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen appoint all of the individuals to their respective Commission, Committee, or Board. The Diversity Commission continues to accept volunteers. Those will be limited to one Democrat and four Republicans or Unaffiliated.

Interim Building Official – Randy Heckman until January 2022. Interim Zoning Agent – Michael D'Amato who is willing to offer his contracted services for zoning matters for \$2,000 until January 2022. These interim positions are to provide support for these duties as Jim Rupert acts as the Interim Town Administrator.

By: Pierog

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

L. Assessor

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen reappoint Helen Totz for a period of one

year.

By: Morra

Seconded: Pierog

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

6. Reports & Updates:

A. Subcommittee Report

None

B. Properties and Facilities Report

None

C. Open Space Management & Acquisition

None

D. FY 21 Budget Report

Pierog said restrictions have been placed on all expenditures that are not necessary and on open purchase orders. We currently have ~\$4 mill. available in cash with a bond payment of \$3 mill. due in mid-August.

The Expenditures report included in the packet is through the end of April per Rupert.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Report on Budget Transfers

There was no discussion nor were there any questions about the reported transfers.

B. Other

None

8. New Business:

A. Consider and Possibly Act on Setting Tax Due Dates

Pierog said the BOF sets the mil rate; the BOS is charged with setting the tax due date. Jill Collins and Lori Bushnell are recommending a due date of September 1, 2021. If there is no budget by the beginning of the fiscal year the BOF has to set a temporary mil rate no higher than the current mil rate. If the budget passes that requires a higher mil rate an extra tax bill is sent out. If the BOF sets the mil rate lower than the current we are in a world of confusion. Certified letters will have to go out to everyone who has paid their tax bill, a form signed indicating they want a refund must be returned, and then a refund is made. Pierog spoke to Chairman to BOF about this process. Morra said keeping the current mil rate would be best.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen recommends to the BOF that the temporary mil rate be set at the current mil rate.

Friendly amendment: Recommends to the BOF that the mil rate be set no lower than the current mil rate and a supplemental bill be sent in January.

By: Morra Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: Eremita asked what happens if the budget continues to not pass and the mil rate has to be reduced. Morra said there is a lesser chance of that happening. Institutions will not pay without a mil rate. This course of action should not affect too many people.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Pierog

Against: None

Abstain: DePietro (due to technical difficulties)

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen set the tax payment date without interest as September 1, 2021.

By: Pierog Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: Eremita said if the budget passes on the next round do we want the due date set for September. Pierog said we have to give people 30 days. As long as we can pay the bond bill and the employees we can loan ourselves money.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Pierog

Against: None

Abstain: DePietro (due to technical difficulties)

C. Preliminary Discussion on Budget Cuts

Pierog said as of this point the BOF has reduced the BOS ask by \$217k, which drops the proposed expenditures to \$9k less than this year. The BOE has a large increase. At the next meeting or a special meeting the BOS will suggest/discuss where cuts can be made.

D. Legal Opinion from R. Barger on Meetings

Pierog said the Conservation Commission held a meeting a private residence. Pierog asked Rupert to check with the FOI Commission and Town Attorney if a public meeting can be held in private residence. Rich Barger's opinion is that as long as it is advertised that the public can attend it should not be a problem. Meetings can be held anywhere as long it is properly noticed and anyone can attend. We have heard no complaints about that instance. Eremita asked does ADA compliance come in when it says no hinderance? Pierog replied that is a good question.

E. Holding Meetings in Person

Pierog said the unified command of Emergency Operations Director, the First Selectman, the Schools Superintendent, the Health Director, the Safety Director for the Schools, the Fire Chief, and the Resident Trooper is recommending that we open all buildings except Notch Road on July 19th. This is the day after the Executive Order expires.

Reopening the Senior Center will have separate paths for entering and exiting the building so people are not passing each other going in and out. All will have to wear masks. The consumption of beverages and coffee will be allowed.

We are working on proposal for the library.

We are making the finishing touches on the plan for Town Hall. We are putting signs up at every door to indicate which door they should enter to visit a particular office. As part of ongoing issues with public safety people who visit Town Hall will be required to ring the bell. Employees can see and answer the bell from their workstations. This is to restrict access for those who should not be there. Masks will be required at every building and masks will be available at every door. Rupert said ambulatory need exceptions will be made at the Senior Center.

Pierog asked what the Members preference is for the August BOS meeting? Morra said he prefers to meet in person but a hybrid meeting should be offered. Pierog and Eremita are comfortable with in person or hybrid. DePietro prefers to stay in his home. Rupert said OWL technology has been added to Town Hall.

F. Consider and Possible Act on Selectmen's Wage for FY22

G. Consider and Possibly Act on Wage Increase for Non-Union Staff

Pierog went over the Combined 21-22 Wage Proposal 7-6-21 spreadsheet. Pierog proposes that we forego the Selectmen's raises for the next fiscal year. The Supervisor's union did accept the last best offer.

Eremita said the Selectmen foregoing raises is an empty gesture and has no impact because the employees don't do the same thing. Five people in the community of all Town employees foregoing raises serves no purpose. Other people do not follow suit. Morra said he understands where Eremita is coming from – it is a positive gesture with this caveat. Morra thinks we should structure the Selectmen's salaries to reflect who is doing the most work.

Eremita said if the unions and others followed suit that would be one thing. Pierog said the savings from the Selectmen not taking raises is \$445, which has no effect in the entire scheme of things. Morra said this point was addressed a number of years ago with asking employees to forego increases for a six month period. We may be in a position to go back and say this is where we are - can we all do this?

Rupert said no increases for the Supervisor's union was on the table but we did not have to do that at the time. Morra said he thinks the BOS can make that decision as part of budget deliberations. Pierog said we would have to go back to the unions and get permission; she is not averse to that in making considerations. Eremita said ~90% of budget is personnel salaries and fringe benefits; let's look at the biggest culprit.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen accept the proposed wages with the change to the BOS of a 2.25% increase and to change those salaries below minimum wage to minimum wage.

Friendly amendment: With the caveat that the BOS revisit this budget after the budget is approved.

By: Eremita Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

H. Consider and Possibly Act on Resident Trooper Contract

Pierog said the new contract is the standard contract. The changes are listed on page one of the letter. Item 1 only applies to Town Officers or Constables under the supervision of Resident Troopers; this will not affect Bolton. The cost of the contract for this coming year without overtime \$340k which is less than budgeted for last year. That is due to the current Trooper having less seniority than the recently retired Trooper

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen authorize Pierog to sign the contract between the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Protection and the Town of Bolton for the coming year

By: Morra Seconded: Eremita

Eremita said he would like to figure out some way to coordinate coverage with other communities that have Resident Troopers in adjoining areas. There has to be some way to coordinate or combine with other services to have a police officer within a reasonable time or distance from the borders. Pierog said the Supervisor of Troop K has indicated the trooper for Bolton will spend all of his time in Bolton when on overtime until a call comes in from another town. The State Police have 5/3 or 4/2 schedule making it difficult to do some type of coordination.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

Jim Rupert asked if the BOS discussed what the Town wants to put forward as a policy to other Boards and Commission regarding in-person meetings. Rupert would like to have that guidance from the BOS.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen set as Town policy the adoption of the hybrid model for meetings.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

I. Discussion on ARPA Funds received

Pierog said we have received a check from the feds of \$748k. We do not have any additional information on what it can be spent on. Rupert came up with the idea of working with Manchester to see if we can extend the sewer line up to Carlyle Johnson on Route 44. This would cover the drive-in, Dean's property and the Ansaldi property to make this area more attractive for development. It will also help with the other businesses because of the cost of annual water testing. The sewer extension would be ~\$1/3 mill. Morra said an issue in the past was about putting a pump station in to help with pressure. Pierog said that was the larger number in the proposal. Manchester and the water company wanted to extend into Bolton but the cost was too much. If Bolton partners with Manchester we may be able to put something together. This could be a real game changer. Pierog said the BOS will be talking about this at a future meeting. Rupert will do some preliminary work for the engineering portion of the project.

We also talked to Kristin about adding a ground mounted air conditioning system to Bolton Center School. Right now we rent air conditioners in the fall and spring which is money out the door. If the extension of the water project is around \$1.3 mill we will have money to spend on this.

Pierog said this money is in a separate interest bearing account.

J. Consider and Possibly Act on ARPA Funds for EHHD

Pierog said we have received a request to help EHHD pay for the rental of the Mansfield Community Center Community Room for the vaccine clinic they held. EHHD is asking for a voluntary contribution of participating towns for the \$20k bill. EHHD did not anticipate receiving a bill from Mansfield.

Rupert said the first request was not very tactful. Town Managers and Administrators of the participating towns were upset about receiving this because many had asked to host a clinic at their town's expense. The Town of Mansfield is asking each participating town, with the exception of Mansfield, to pay a per capita portion.

Eremita said this is b.s. The other towns were more than willing to hold a clinic. It is ridiculous. I would send them a big fat zero; this is wholly out of line. DePietro agreed with Eremita's statements.

Morra said Mansfield put the health district in a tough position. EHHD did not know there would be a bill. Rupert said the EHHD did not know a bill would be generated from using the Community Center.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen send a letter to the Town of Mansfield to pony up and suck up the cost. I strongly recommend that they withdraw the bill to EHHD.

By: Eremita Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

Pierog asked Kathy McCavanagh to send a letter to the Town of Mansfield saying sorry we aren't voluntarily paying. McCavanagh may phrase the letter as Eremita stated.

K. Consider and Possibly Act on Increasing the Special Events Permit Fee
Pierog said Members probably know about the special event recently held at Fish Family
Farm. A huge number of individuals attended the event that took a lot of Town Staff time,
fire department time, and State Police time. Although the State Police time was paid for
by the hosts the Resident Trooper spend most of his time that day controlling the crowds.

Rupert said events have been happening for a number of years at the Farm. Most of those were for the Lutz Museum which is a non-profit. The \$50 permit fee seems reasonable for a non-profit. This recent event was clearly for profit for the promotion company and benefited a local business, Fish Family Farm, as it sold out of 700 gallons of ice cream. Taxpayers dollars went to supporting the event. EHHD gets a fee from every vendor that they have to inspect. Currently our fee for a Special Permit is \$50 that was set in the 1970s.

Eremita suggested looking at a graduated fee based on profit or non-profit and on the number of anticipated guests. There would be a different scale for non-profit or profit.

DePietro asked what the event was. Pierog said it was a strawberry festival sponsored by the same promoter that does the East Windsor festival. DePietro said we should get back what it costs for the Town to support the event with the services used at for profit organizers.

Morra, Eremita, and Pierog suggests that Rupert come back to the BOS with a proposal for the Board to consider.

K. Consider and Possibly Act on RiMaConn Relay Marathon (August 28, 2021) Pierog said this relay ran last year. A detailed COVID protocol plan was submitted.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen authorize the use of the trail for that day for the RiMaConn relay. Should they need assistance from Bolton Volunteer Fire they should reach out to them

By: Pierog Seconded: Morra

Discussion: Morra said extensive protocol was received and it is a good route. There is only on road crossing at Steele's Crossing Road. Who has responsibility for the safety here – the race organizers or the Town? Eremita said he thinks the Fire Police manned the road crossing. Pierog said this will be mentioned in the note indicating approval by the BOS.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

L. Consider and Possibly Act on Signs from FBL

Pierog said the Friends of Bolton Lake have proposed four locations of signs. Two are on State roads and two on Town roads. The town roads are 27 Quarry and 26 Tolland. The packet has a copy of what the signs will look like which is vivid green with white lettering. Pierog suggests the FBL work with Barbara Kelly to determine if the four locations are the best locations for the signs because that is not the edge of the watershed. Once locations are agreed on the Town will go ahead and get the State approval for them.

Eremita said what about the use of road salts? Pierog said Kelly can guide us on that.

FBL will be notified to get together with Barbara Kelly for locations and the content of signs and to come back to the BOS.

M. Discuss Removing Existing Sign at Sr. Center and Replace at Front of Building and Place Refurbished FD Sign Where Existing Sign was

The Fire Department gave the Senior Center the old sign that was at the fire department. The BOS never accepted it or approved the installation. This is to formally accept the sign and installation approval. The view of the refurbished sign is in the packet. The three blank lines will be filled in by Senior Center Staff for current events.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen accept the sign and approve the installation.

By: DePietro Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

N. Discuss Use of Everbridge Notifications for Non-Emergency News and Events

Pierog said at the last BOF, the Board discussed at length using the Everbridge notification system to get out information about the referendum. This was pushed out early in the morning and mid-afternoon. We received many calls about this notification saying they did not sign up for notification about voting. Do we want to continue using the system for non-emergency notices? A notice went out about the severe thunderstorm watch.

Morra said this was initially intended for emergency notifications. It is not clear if it can it be used for other things that are important for the town. Pierog said Rupert and McCavanagh checked with Everbridge when we purchased the software. It is not restricted to emergencies. Eremita said if we are going to do this for non-emergency notices, such as a flu clinic, a list should be put together, to the best of our abilities, of what the potential notifications may be letting people know up front when they sign up.

Pierog said this warrants further discussions on this. It is a matter of information to the public. Pierog had McCavanagh research for cost of the every door delivery when we moved the presidential voting location; it was \$2,200. We will put this in another agenda and talk about it further.

O. Discussion of Local Cannabis Sales

Pierog said this is about the BOS prohibiting the use of marijuana on Town property. Some feel the woods at Herrick Park Woods is their personal bodega.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen prohibit the use of marijuana on Town property or facilities.

By: Pierog Seconded: Morra

Discussion: Eremita said we already prohibit the use of alcohol on Town property. Both these substances alter your state. We should mirror the alcohol policy. Pierog said the use of marijuana is to be prohibited completely. She knows of no insurance today that would provide a use rider for marijuana whereas there is an alcohol rider for special events.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

Against: None Abstain: None

Pierog said the policy will mirror the alcohol policy but leave out special events.

9. First Selectman's Report:

A. Update on Board of Finance Actions on Budget

Pierog said this matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

B. COVID-19

Pierog said we have had 297 cases rating us below the state average. Rupert has arranged with EHHD a pop-up clinic to be held on the Town Green during the Night Moves concert, which is the best attended concert of the year. This will be on August 18 and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be used.

Rupert said a pop-up clinic is being planned between the library and Hartford Health Care during the month of July. McCavanagh said the date for this is July 22.

10. Re-Opening:

A. Other

Pierog said this matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Update on Employee Health Benefit Change

Rupert provided a written report. There were no questions from the BOS.

B. Update on Fire Truck Repairs

Pierog said she hopes all Members saw the email from Bruce Dixon. Rescue 134 was towed to Middletown due to an anti-freeze leak. Towing a large vehicle is not cheap.

C. Other

None

12. Adjournment:

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

By: Morra Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, Eremita, DePietro

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.

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Via Zoom teleconference

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 839 5609 2404

The July 12, 2021 joint meeting of the Charter Revision Commission and Board of Selectmen was called to order by S. Pierog at 7:18 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

CRC MEMBERS PRESENT: CRC Chair Gwen Marrion, Richard Hayes, Jay Brudz, Adam Teller, and John Toomey.

CRC MEMBERS ABSENT: CRC Vice Chair Eleanor Georges and Jim Aldrich BoS MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Sandy Pierog, Bob Morra, Kim Miller, Bob DePietro

BoS MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrative Officer Jim Rupert, Board Clerk Michael Stankov, CV Channel Representative Skylar

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- S. Pierog called for public comment, but there was none.
- 3. REVIEW OF AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN OF BOLTON CHARTER
- S. Pierog noted that she continued to be opposed to section 10.2(G), the subject of which is incompatible offices. In particular, S. Pierog opposed the prohibition proposed by the CRC against the town administrator serving in any number of positions in the fire services.
- K. Miller asked why this provision was introduced in the first place. G. Marrion and J. Brudz noted that the position of the Town Administrator controls an enormous amount of influence over writing the budget, and there is the potential for bias, subconscious bias or even a perception of bias, in favor of the fire services during the budgeting process as a result. A. Teller noted that the Town Administrator is the one person in town hall responsible for all crises, not just fire calls, that may occur in town, and that it would be good for the permanent crisis manager of the town to not need to be responding to two different crises at once. There are also issues of Chain of Command does the Fire Chief defer to a Town Administrator who is responding to a fire call who would otherwise be under their command? K. Miller generally agreed with the reasoning of the members of the CRC on this matter.

B. Morra next spoke up about section 7.1 and questioned whether or not the Zoning Board of Appeals should be an elected board. In his opinion, all appeals boards should be elected, as they are places where the public goes to be heard by a jury of elected peers for a redress of grievances. A. Teller noted that the only appeals that the ZBA actually hears are appeals of the Zoning Official's decisions, and that the majority of their work is issuing variances to strict application of a zoning regulation. Because of this, the ZBA isn't particularly different in the kind of work it hears than the PZC.

Discussion turned to section 12.1(A), concerning the particulars that can lead to the dismissal of a board member. The board spent some time discussing whether or not it was reasonable to dismiss an individual who did not attend half of the meetings of a board that they are a member of, even if there are extenuating circumstances in the absentee member's life. Such circumstances are generally understood to be a good reason for absence, but if such an absence is expected to extend indefinitely then it would not be unreasonable for a commission to ask that individual to resign or remove them if the absentee would not.

MOTION MADE by S. Pierog, seconded by K. Miller, to accept the report of the CRC as submitted.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTING IN FAVOR: B. DePietro, K. Miller, S. Pierog

VOTING AGAINST: B. Morra

ABSTENTIONS: None

Following the success of this vote, it was noted that the changes to the charter would be published in the newspaper within 30 days.

MOTION MADE by S. Pierog, seconded by B. Morra, to send the revised charter to referendum on November 2, 2021.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTING IN FAVOR: B. DePietro, K. Miller, S. Pierog, B. Morra

VOTING AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- 4. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS IN THE CHARTER REVISION PROCESS INCLUDING FORMAT OF BALLOT QUESTIONS.
- S. Pierog next noted the six categories of questions that were proposed by the CRC in their 6/10 meeting and letter to the BoS. S. Pierog then proposed a seventh category to go along with this: The thresholds for expenditures that must be met before calling a town meeting. Agreeing to

these seven questions, the BoS discussed having the process of drafting the questions. The next meeting to discuss these questions would take place on Tuesday 20 July 2021.

- 5. Adjournment
- S. Pierog adjourned the meeting at 8:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Stankov, Charter Revision Commission Board Clerk

Please see future minutes for revisions and corrections to these minutes.





Town of Bolton

222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD • BOLTON, CT 06043

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021 – 7:00 P.M. MINUTES

The Board of Selectmen held a Special Meeting on July 20, 2021 virtually by zoom with First Selectman Sandra Pierog presiding. Also in attendance were Selectmen: Robert Morra, Kimberly Miller and Robert DePietro. Absent was Administrative Officer James Rupert.

1. Call to Order

Sandra Pierog called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None. We appear to have no one here for public comment.

3. Develop Questions for Charter Revision.

SP: So, the first item on the agenda is to develop the questions for Charter Revision and I'm going to share my screen (assuming I can).

KM: So, now you're going to look at the side of my head again. (Laughs). I try to angle it so it's not so bad.

SP: Yup. Alright, can you see my screen?

RM: Yes.

KM: Yes, we can.

SP: Umm, it's not exactly um, paged well. So, what I did was to take the questions that we had at our last meeting and broke them down into eight (8) questions and I'll explain eight (8) as we go through. I know we originally talked about seven. Um, but as I started thinking about it I think the restrictions on the Town Administrator um, not serving in certain organizations or holding certain other titles, um, needs to be a question for the public. Separate from changing the duties and the title.

RM: It so happens that's what I wrote up.

SP: Oh Bob, that's wonderful.

RM: So, we're of a similar mindset on that.

SP: Yeah. So, let's just go through this. Um, and I need to move you guys because I can't see what's moving, going, okay. Um, question 1, um this comes pretty much directly from um one of Eleanor George's questions. Um, shall the Town Charter be amended to replace the Board of Finance with a finance committee composed of two (2) members of the Board of Selectmen, two (2) members of the Board of Education and three (3) members at large; and shall the new finance committee assume the role of Capital Acquisition Planning and Allocation Committee known to its friends as CAPA; um, and then, shall the Board of Selectmen be increased from five (5) to seven (7) members with staggered four (4) year terms; and shall the members of the Board of Selectmen be prohibited from serving simultaneously in other elected office except the finance committee? And, I added except the finance committee um, but I need some input from you guys. Um, the finance committee from the Board of Selectmen would have been appointed and I think the discussion at the charter revision was that no other member of the Board of Selectmen or Board of Education could run for the finance committee.

KM: So you couldn't end up having three (3) people from the Board of Ed or the three (3) people from the Board of Selectmen?

SP: Correct.

RM: Yeah, I think that was their intent too. So, it's still two (2) and two (2).

SP: Okay, so I will....

KM: Because you didn't want anyone to have a ... yeah.

SP: Let's see if I can edit this as we go. Whoa, I guess I'm not that talented.

RM: That's all right. I'll just use my magic marker on my screen.

SP: Yeah, don't. (Laugh). It's a little tough to come out. Question two.

KM: Can I ask, I have a guestion about this.

SP: Go ahead Kim.

KM: So, I apologize I'm just forgetting what this says. So remember we had the conversation around where in the four (4) year staggered term did the First Selectmen go. Did we determine that they were every two (2) years? They had to run every two (2) years? (Inaudible).

SP: No, I don't think so.

RM: No.

SP: I think that was, I think that's a four year.

KM: I just couldn't remember.

RM: Four (4) year term.

KM: Okay.

SP: Umm, question two, shall the town charter be amended to change reduce to revise in the provision relating to a failed budget referendum? And Bob, I think that was the one you wanted to make sure was a separate question.

RM: Right. And, let's see ah. I have written it. May I just kind of written it slightly different. I don't know (inaudible).

SP: Okay, go ahead.

RM: I'll try. I think ah, where is it here? Simply said shall the town charter be amended to allow increasing the budget after a failed budget referendum? It says the same thing, but I think it just says it more clearly. That's just my thought and I put it out there for discussion.

KM: So can you.., So, I think the actual change is reduce to revise. Could you leave that first sentence and then add a second sentence that clarifies what you mean; because I get what you're saying, right.

RM: Yeah. So, it really is a clarification.

SP: Yeah, so maybe it's,

KM: I think we probably have yeah...

SP: So maybe saying um, in the provision relating to a failed budget referendum; therefore allowing an increased budget after a failed referendum.

RM: Yeah that (inaudible)

KM: An increase or decrease right, either one?

SP: Okay.

RM: The difference is it allows an increase. That's the difference.

SP: Yeah, right now we can only decrease.

RM: Right.

KM: To allow an increase. Oh okay.

RM: Yeah, I'm good with that.

SP: Okay.

RM: With that type of language we have, we may need to tweak it.

SP: Yup.

RM: But that's okay.

SP: Um, and then question 3 shall the town charter be amended to change the title of Administrative Officer to Town Administrator; change the roles and responsibilities of that position; and shall the town charter be amended to change the title of Chief Financial Officer to Director of Finance?

RM: That's pretty straight forward.

SP: And then question four, shall the town charter be amended to prohibit the Administrative Officer from serving in organizations or other appointed town's positions which may be conflicting with the responsibilities of the position?

Um, just reading that now I think we need to define the position as um responsibilities of (Town) Administrative Officer. (Inaudible). The word positions in there too many times.

RM: Yeah, so where does that portion of shall the Town Administrator be prohibited from being a member of the Fire Department or the Fire Marshal.

SP: That's, there's actually two sections um and I don't think I have my (inaudible)

RM: Will that go there or should it go somewhere else?

SP: Well, I think that's here and that's the list of organizations I think is in section five which is where the Town Administrator is and that lists um things like PTA, Land Trust and things of that nature. Um, then it says other appointed positions which may be conflicting and that's where it talks about Fire Department, Emergency Management Director and...

RM: Right.

SP: ... everything else.

RM: Yeah.

SP: So, it's actually two sections.

RM: Oh, okay. So, what you're saying, it can be handled in two (2) separate questions.

SP: Well no, this is one question...

RM: That is part of that one question? Okay.

SP: ... that affects that and when we do the explanation which is going to be our next step once we've decided what the questions are we'll have to lay out what sections is actually effects.

RM: Okay. To me that was important that be clear so people understand what all that means.

SP: Mmm hmm. Um and then questions 5 should the current thresholds for borrowing and special appropriations be lowered so that amounts above 2% of total expenditures must go to referendum? ... Hi Bob D.

RD: Hi! Sorry about this.

SP: Did you lose your power too?

RD: Oh yeah, oh yeah. I lose my power up here.

RM: (laughter)

SP: Aren't we all.

RM: Yeah, the difference is Bob, Bob and I lose our hair along with it. (Laughter).

SP: Yeah, well my foreheads growing guys so, (laughter)... you're not alone. (More laughter). Um, moving on to question six: Shall the charter be amended to merge planning and zoning and inland wetlands; make members of that board, it's alternates and members of the zoning boards of appeals and its alternate appointed positions? Um, I think before I move on, I think after reading this allowed it needs to say make members of that combined board, to make that clear.

RM: Right.

RD: Yes, yes.

SP: Um, and shall the charter, go ahead Kim.

KM: (Inaudible). No, go ahead, no, no, no, you go.

SP: Um, shall the charter be amended to change how vacancies on appointed boards are filled and the procedure for removal of members of appointed boards?

RD: Um

SP: That section that second shall the charter be amended to change vacancies? Um, I think that could move to um the technical changes question which is the next question below which might take it out of the planning and zoning/inland wetlands combination because I think that's going to be controversial.

RM: Yeah, I think that question alone, should stand alone. Right, take that other portion out.

SP: We'll move it down to guestion 7.

RM: Yeah, if it's a place to put it in, I concur with that.

SP: Question 7 goes on and on forever and we may want to make that, break it into other questions but um, it starts out shall the charter be amended to make technical changes which will change the economic development commission from a required to an optional board; add a definition of total expenditure amount; change the timing of notices of transfers of special appropriations; decrease the term of fire commissioners to four (4) years and change the timing of the election of such members, except there not elected that's appointed. So, that needs to be fixed. Um...

RM: The appointment, yup.

SP: Change the timing of the election of chairman of elected and appointed boards and commissions; clarify conflict of interest provisions; change the method of resolving a tie vote to a coin toss; add provisions for posting and recording materials of certain boards and commission meetings; change the timing of the selection of the auditor; change the provisions reappointment of the treasurer; add a requirement of a plain language summary of the budget; change the date of publication of the annual report; remove references to the Judge of Probate; change the definition of majority on the Board of Selectmen; allow additions to the Board of Selectmen agendas; and change the duration of the temporary building commission?

RD: Man, oh man, oh man.

SP: That's a debacle.

KM: People are going to read that question and like am I supposed to put yes or no. (Inaudible)

SP: Well, yeah. It's a huge, long question and ...

RM: How do you break it up?

SP: Well, that's the other thing. Um, I'm wondering if we could just do a um...

RD: bullets

SP: Well, either bullets or refer to um, shall the charter...just say something like shall the charter um, be changed to adopt the technical changes as noted in the communication dated June 15th or what September 15th or whatever it is?

RD: Yup, yup.

SP: I don't know how the attorney's will feel about that; but I think...

RM: Yeah, I think by the time you get done reading this you say what? What? I'm not sure what I'm voting for. I mean that's, that's ...

SP: Yes, it's way too much stuff.

RM: Yeah.

KM: Can you say something like, can um you know the the recommended changes, but then put a like bullets of what they are? So, at least people can see what they were if anybody cares but the people who don't at least know this was the recommendation of the ...

RM: Oh, I see what you're saying. Instead of on going sentences, we bullet 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 underneath it. Right? Is that what you're saying?

KM: Yeah, so then they can just see what it is but, the first sentence sort of tells you these are technical, recommended technical changes. I don't know how you want to word it but...

RM: Well, that would at least make it so that yeah, there would be an order to it, yeah asymmetry. Yeah, I think that makes good sense Kim.

SP: Yeah, no I think I will try that. Um, and see what happens.

RM: Yeah.

SP: And then, shall the town charter adopt gender neutral language to replace the current selectman, selectmen terms and pronouns throughout the charter?

RM: Right.

SP: Um ... I'm not sure that's descriptive enough of what we're trying to do.

RM: I don't know. I mean that's, appears to be (inaudible)

KM: To me that seems fine.

RM: It does. I think this one is simple and straight forward...the easiest to understand.

SP: Now, another question, um should we flip question 7 and 8 so that the technical changes come

RM: And you can read underneath it. Yeah.

KM: Yup. Yup.

last.

SP: Or should we move the gender neutral language somewhere else?

RM: I, I would put it certainly in front of 7 because it's just a straight forward simple one right there.

KM: Yeah.

RM: A simple line no matter what they may skip other stuff but they'll read that.

SP: Yup, yup.

KM: I have a dumb general question. So, for questions 1 and is it 6, the two that are changing committees. One is changing the finance committee and the other is changing the zoning board of appeals. I forget what number it was.

SP: Mmm hmm.

RM: Yup.

KM: So, if were asking these questions during the election in November aren't people running for the Board of Finance and...

SP: Yes, but the charter doesn't go into effect um for elected positions until the election following this November. So, it would be 2023 that elected positions would be effected.

KM: So, what happens with the Board of Finance? Isn't the Board of Finance rotating four years?

SP: Yes.

KM: So ... (inaudible).

SP: So anybody who is, people who are elected now assuming the charter passes, would serve a two (2) year term and then, the new three (3) members would be elected.

RM: Right. So, all those three (3) members no matter what, would have to run for that spot, the three member board. Because it's a different structure.

KM: Oh okay. So, it doesn't matter, it's not when your term expires; it's the next municipal election.

RM: Right.

SP: Correct.

KM: Got it.

RM: (Inaudible)

KM: I'm like how's that gonna work? Yup.

SP: Alright, I just wanna quickly go by um for Bob D's um info here. Whoops. Sorry! Um, I don't think we did, made any changes here (see attachment) on the first page...

RM: No, no.

SP: ...in the question. And then um on the second page shall the members of the Board of Selectmen be prohibited from serving simultaneously in other elected town offices; that, except the Finance Committee will come out.

RM: (inaudible) too we added a little explanatory after that. End of the sentence.

SP: Yup, yup. And then two, we said um shall the Town Charter be amended to change reduce to revise in the provision relating to a failed budget referendum. Um, thereby allowing an increase in a budget at, increase or decrease in a budget after a failed referendum?

RM: Right.

SP: Um, let's see...

RD: Thank you Sandy.

RM: That explains it so nobody has any questions.

SP: Yeah, that was Bob's. Bob Morra's suggestion. I really liked it. Um, let's see I don't think we did anything too three.

RM: No.

SP: Um, and four shall the Town Charter be amended to prohibit the Administrative Officer from serving on organizations or other town appointed positions which may be conflicting with the responsibilities of um we changed the position to the position of Administrative Officer.

RM: And with that didn't we somewhere in the explanatory portion describe what those positions are?

SP: Yeah. Yup, we will definitely do that.

RM: Yeah, Yeah,

RD: How do people know what is conflicting with responsibilities?

SP: Um, it's delineated in the proposed language to the charter. You'll remember that there was the section that says the Administrative Officer can't be a member of the Land Trust, can't be a member of

Bike Walk Bolton, can't be a member of um, the PTA and there was a list of four or five organizations that they couldn't participate in; and then further on in the charter they added he could not be a member of the Fire Department or she, could not be a member of the Fire Department, could not be the Emergency Management Director and ...

RM: Fire Marshal.

SP: Oh, you're right Fire Marshal.

RM: Yeah all three.

SP: So, um I think those are gonna be somewhat controversial provisions. Um, I know at least on this board I think they're somewhat controversial positions.

RM: Yeah, they are and I ...

RD: Yup. Yup.

SP: So, um that was that and five um I don't think we did any changes on.

RM: And you came in on six I think. (Speaking to RD).

SP: You came in on six so I think you're all caught up.

RD: (Inaudible). Okay.

SP: So, what I will do is um, revise these questions with the changes we've made tonight. So, and circulate them again among all the selectmen and then hopefully we can take a final vote on the questions at our August meeting. And then ...

RD: Alright, Sandy are going to break up question number seven like Kim and Bob said.

SP: Yes, I'm gonna try. (Laughter). So, I'll try, make a stab at it and send it back to you folks and then be very interested in any suggestions you have once you've seen it. Because I think we all agree it's not a workable question at this point in time.

RD: True, and what about people who like to know, even me, stupid as I am, what it was we're changing.

SP: Yup, we will, there, our next job um and I already have Jim and Kathy working on it, is to develop an explanatory document that says these for each question it will say this affects section (and I'm just throwing numbers out here) 5.A.2.

RD: Mmm hmm.

SP: And is used to say this and it will say that.

RD: Good, Good.

SP: And then that will be something that will go out on the website, it will have to be published in the newspaper which will cost us a gazillion dollars and nobody will read it. Um, and then...

RM: (Inaudible).

SP: Well, you know that kind of depends on how many pages it is.

RM: That's true. Right.

SP: It may be worthwhile to, um it would cost us around \$10 grand to mail it to everybody. Every um, an every door mailing of about 40 pages which is probably what it is going to end up being.

RM: Oh wow! I forgot how big it was. Yeah. Okay.

SP: Yeah. It's the entire charter. So, um yeah were gonna have to um, refer this to an attorney who's um, experienced in municipal charters; and then um have them review anything we put together.

RM: Right.

RD: Okay.

SP: So, that um that were sure we're not breaking any laws here. And then, on the revised one I'll move question 8 um, which is the gender neutral language up so that 7 is the last question here. Um, so if you see after you've had some time to look at this something you think ought to be a separate question, um or that you think is confusing um please bring it to our attention and if we need to have another short zoom meeting we can do that.

RD: Okay.

4. Consider and Act on Setting A Billing Date for Supplemental Tax Bills To Be Sent Out.

SP: Alright. Well, okay moving on um consider and act upon setting a billing date for supplemental tax bills to be sent out. Um, I'm hoping that the next budget referendum passes and I'm also hoping that the revised mil rate which I don't even remember what it is anymore um is a supplement and we will have to be setting a supplemental bill out. Um, I've had a meeting with Jill and Jill Collins the Finance Director and Lori Converse Bushnell. (Laughter). That's what happens when you've lived in Bolton too long.

RM: Right. Right.

SP: Um the Tax Collector and Lori suggested that it would be much easier for her and her collections process if we made the due date of the supplemental billing January 1. Which would match the due date of the supplemental billing for automobiles.

RM: Yeah.

SP: People are used to getting a supplemental bill in January, um and would be looking for it. And, actually tax collections are going very, very well so far. The bills just went out.

RM: (Inaudible).

SP: I'm sorry?

RM: She's been overloaded with people.

SP: Yeah.

KM: Can I ask a dumb question? So the temporary, did they set the temporary mil rate?

SP: Yes, at 38.86.

KM: Oh they did. Okay. I didn't know that.

SP: Which is ...

RM: Didn't you get your bill yet?

KM: Did I get a bill?

RM: Yeah.

KM: I don't know.

RM: I got all my tax bills already. (Inaudible).

SP: Yeah, I did too. Most of them came on Saturday and they're was a straggler on Monday which probably got delivered to somebody else on Saturday.

RM: I would love to keep the \$54.00 Monday one. Throw the rest out but that's... (laughter).

SP: (Laughter).

RM: That's not gonna happen.

KM: So, is the mil rate that they set the same as the mil rate we're voting on, on Tuesday?

SP: No. No.

KM: Is it lower?

SP: The mil rate they set is the mil rate, the same as this current year that we just passed.

RM: Right.

KM: Okay.

SP: And according to the charter, it could not be set any higher than that.

KM: Oh, okay. I was gonna say it would have been nice if they could have just set it too what it was going out as.

SP: So, yeah. Well in order, because of the drop in revenues and um everything else that's going on; in order to keep the 38.86 mil rate, they would need to reduce the budget and Bob D. help me here. Um, I think it's another \$250,000 dollars.

RM: Over what we are currently presenting.

SP: Over what it is today. I mean what it is in the referendum next week.

RD: Yup, yup.

SP: I'm sorry.

RD: Yup.

SP: Okay, yeah. So, \$250,000 dollars um if it were split 2/3, 1/3; that would be like a \$80,000, another \$85,000 to us.

RM: Right.

SP: And, we're already below last year's budgeted amount.

RM: Right.

SP: By about 25 almost \$30,000 dollars at this point. So, it's a, that will bring us down \$110,000 which...

RM: I think that what's being proposed Bob if I'm not wrong is about a ½ mil differential, is that about what it is?

SP: I don't remember what the new mil rate was Bob do you?

RD: It's 39.4 something.

RM: Yeah.

SP: 39. Okay, so were now at 38.86

RM: So, it's a hair over it.

SP: Yeah, it's about 6/10 of a mil.

RM: Right. Yeah.

SP: Unfortunately, I think unless we can get our "yes" people out; we lost by 47 votes at this last referendum. So, we need to get some "yes" people to show up and vote.

KM: I don't know if you guys read the stuff on Facebook?

RM: Yeah.

KM: There has been quite the ...oh my

RM: No, my constitution can't handle it. (Chuckle).

KM: Honestly, it makes me really mad. Like people get like... accusatory.

SP: Oh, they do.

KM: Oh, there must've been a ton of waste if they can have a meeting right after it and just cut \$150,000 from the budget. They didn't need (inaudible). It just, it gets very not good...

SP: Yeah.

KM: And, I should just not read it.

RM: (inaudible).

SP: What you should do, um Emily Bradley, Chris Davey and I filmed another CVC show today on the budget and...

KM: (inaudible)...your last one.

SP: What Chris did was to go through all of the Bolton discussion groups um on Facebook and pulled out the questions and did sort of a round robin. You know we've seen people asking on social media, why do we only have one payment date? Um, why do we only, why did they, how could they just cut \$80,000 dollars just like that?

KM: Yeah.

SP: Oh there must have been fat in the budget to begin with. Um, you know why if they turned back \$800,000 dollars, um, don't we just cut \$800,000 dollars off the budget?

RD: (Inaudible).

SP: Right off the bat. We tried to answer those questions. (Excuse me). It's another show that's about 40 minutes long. Um, we got a pre-taped um statement from the Chairman of the Board of Ed. Unfortunately, we probably won't be able to include it. Um, because he says "go out and vote yes on the budget."

RM: Well, you can't do that.

SP: You can't do that.

KM: OH.

SP: And, he sent the email from his Town of Bolton, he sent the video from his town of Bolton email to my town of Bolton email. So, we've used, he's already used town resources to spread the message.

KM: Okay.

SP: They're going to try to edit that piece out of the video. But it's entirely possible he won't be, he won't appear.

RM: Okay.

SP: Um, so I just, especially since he lives in the neighborhood Bob Morra I thought you might...

RM: Yup. If I catch him I'll ring his ear. (Laughter).

SP: I don't think you can catch him but you might want to have his dad ring his ear. Um, alright so, um I need a motion to set the billing date for supplemental tax bills to be due on January 1st, 2022 with a late payment date of February 1st, 2022.

RM: I'll move.

SP: Alright, it's moved by Bob Morra. Is there a second?

RD: Second.

KM: I Second.

SP: Bob DePietro. Okay, all those in favor ... Aye.

RD: Aye.

RM: Aye.

SP: Ave.

KM: Aye.

SP: That's ayes from all four members here. Pierog, Morra, Miller, DiPietro. Okay, thank you.

5. Appointments: Fire Commission.

SP: Um, appointments to the Fire Commission. It's actually one appointment to the Fire Commission and the individual is Elizabeth Malone. Who goes by Lizzy. Um, she's a resident of South Road. She is um asking to be considered for a full-time member of the Fire Commission. Um, she is a member of the fire department; and right now there is only one other member of the fire department who is a member of the Fire Commission. Um, the charter limits the Fire Commission, um to two members of the fire department.

RM: Right.

SP: So,

RD: Sandy, Sandy is that John's daughter?

SP: Whose daughter?

RD: John Malone?

SP: Uh, I don't know who John Malone is. I'm sorry.

RD: He's a landscaper on South Road. He's you know...

SP: Um, could be.

RM: Yeah. Yeah we have a lot of our kids and grandkids who are now at the age where they're actually in the fire service or EMT's.

RD: Wow!

RM: Tell you. Bob tells you, you've been around a while.

SP: Yeah. (Laughter). Yeah, she has an impressive resume.

RM: Oh really?

SP: She's been a member of the fire department for five (5) years. She's fire fighter 1, fire fighter 2, hazmat operations. RM: Wow.

SP: She's an EMT and she's an engineer on some of the fire trucks. So, she's on her way up there. She knows her stuff.

RM: She really is a go getter.

RD: I move to appoint her.

SP: Alright, it's been moved to appoint Elizabeth Malone to the Fire Commission by Bob DePietro.

RM: I second.

SP: Bob Morra seconded. All in favor?

RD: Aye.

SP: Aye.

RM: Aye.

KM: Aye.

SP: That was aye's from Pierog, Morra, Miller and DePietro. Okay. I think...

RM: That's it?

SP: That's the last thing on this agenda. Holy cow. New Record. (Laughter).

KM: That's the shortest meeting we've ever had.

SP: Well not quite. Not quite. We had one that was 12 minutes but...

RM: Right.

KM: Okay.

SP: This is very good considering the last one which went for 2 ½ hours.

RM: Right.

SP: So, alright. Um, I probably won't get this, uh these questions rewritten um until Friday or Saturday but I will email them to everyone and please feel free to comment back and ...

RD: Oh yeah.

6. Adjournment.

SP: With that, because this is a special meeting um, this meeting is adjourned. Have a wonderful evening everyone. (Adjourned at 7:51 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

See minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.

Possible Charter Revision Ballot Question Formats For November 2, 2021 Municipal Election July 20, 2021

Q. 1. Shall the town charter be amended to replace the Board of Finance with a Finance Committee composed of two members of the Board of Selectmen, two members of the Board of Education and three elected members at-large, and

Shall the new Finance Committee assume the role of the Capitol Acquisition, Planning, and Allocation Committee, and

Shall the Board of Selectmen be increased from five to seven members with staggered four-year terms, and

Shall members of the Board of Selectmen be prohibited from serving simultaneously in other elected town offices?

- Q. 2. Shall the town charter be amended to change "reduce" to "revise" in the provision relating to a failed budget referendum thereby permitting an increase or decrease in the proposed budget?
- Q. 3. Shall the town charter be amended to change the title of Administrative Officer to Town Administrator, change the role and responsibilities of that position and

Shall the town charter be amended to change the title of Chief Financial Officer to Director of Finance?

Q. 4. Shall the town charter be amended to prohibit the Administrative Officer from serving in organizations or other

- appointed town positions which may be conflicting with the responsibilities of the position of Administrative Officer?
- Q. 5. Shall the current thresholds for borrowing and special appropriations be lowered, so amounts above 2% of total expenditures must go to referendum?
- Q. 6. Shall the charter be amended to merge the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland Commission, make members of that combined board, its alternates, and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and its alternates appointed positions?
- Q.7. Shall the charter be amended to change how vacancies on appointed boards are filled and the procedure for removal of members of appointed boards?
- Q.8. Shall the town charter adopt gender neutral language to replace the current Selectman/Selectmen terms and pronouns throughout the charter?
- Q. 9. Shall the charter be amended to make following technical changes:
 - change the Economic Development Committee from a required to an optional board,
 - add a definition of Total Expenditure Amount,
 - change the timing of notices of transfers of special appropriations,
 - decrease the term of fire commissioners to four years and change the timing of the election of said members,
 - change the timing of the election of chairmen of elected and appointed boards and commissions,
 - clarify conflict of interest provisions,

- change the method of resolving a tie vote to a coin toss
- add provisions for posting and recording materials of certain board and commission meetings,
- change the timing of the selection of the auditor,
- change the provision re the appointment of the treasurer,
- add a requirement of a plain language summary of the budget, change the date of publication of the annual report, remove references to the judge of probate, change the definition of a majority of the BOS, allow additions to BOS agendas, and change the duration of the Temporary Public Building Commission?

Kyleen Mike 227 Lake Rd Andover CT 06232 Recreation Director

7/7/2021

James Rupert Town of Bolton 222 Bolton Center Rd Bolton CT 06043

Dear Jim,

This letter is to formally give notice that I am resigning from my job as the Recreation Director in the Town of Bolton. My last day of work will be Wednesday August 25.

According to my records I have three weeks' vacation as of August 3 and would like to use these three weeks starting August 4 through the 25. During my 3 weeks of vacation I am happy to be available via email or phone to answer any additional questions current or new staff may have.

I have gained a lot of knowledge and experience being a part of the team here in Bolton. The skills I have acquired I will carry with me to future endeavors. I am grateful for all of the support that you as well as other leaders have provided me with during my time of employment.

I will do my best to complete on time all the pending work I have and would be happy to help train a new employee.

I am fortunate to have been part of the Town of Bolton for the past six years and wish you success in the future.

Kindly acknowledge this letter, and if you have any questions, I can be reached at 860-817-6434 or by email at mike.kyleen@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Hylly Wile
Kyleen Mike



Marijuana Prohibited

Below is the how the Alcohol policy Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on January 7, 1986. Below that is the reworded policy for Marijuana use.

ALCOHOL:

The violation of any duly adopted park or recreation regulations shall be deemed to be an infraction and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Twenty-Five (\$25) Dollars for each violation.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN at a Regular Meeting held on January 7, 1986.

Mrs. Pierog moved to adopt two new Parks regulations as revised by Town Counsel. Mr. Preuss seconded. The new regulations are as follows:

The bringing in, possession, or drinking of alcoholic beverages on Town beaches is prohibited. The Board of Selectmen may, from time to time, designate other park areas in which the bringing in, possession, or drinking of alcoholic beverages will be prohibited. A list of such other areas will be maintained in the Office of the Selectmen.

The use, possession, bringing in, or carrying of glass bottles, drinking glasses, or other glass containers on Town beach is prohibited.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, prohibition of

At a regular meeting held on May 2, 1989, the prohibition of alcoholic beverages was extended to include all of Indian Notch, Herrick Park, and Freja Park – unless prior approval is received from the Board of Selectmen.

MARIJUANA:

The violation of any duly adopted park or recreation regulations shall be deemed to be an infraction and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Twenty-Five (\$25) Dollars for each violation.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN at a Regular Meeting held on January 7, 1986.

Mrs. Pierog moved to adopt two new Parks regulations as revised by Town Counsel. Mr. Preuss seconded. The new regulations are as follows:

The bringing in, use, possession, or consumption of marijuana on any Town property including but not limited to: Herrick Park, Indian Notch Park and Freja Park is prohibited.

7/30/21

Suggested changes to Special Events Permit fees

Change base fee from \$50.00 to \$150.00 for all applicants.

For special events requiring inspections charge:

\$50.00 for each discipline, (build/Fire) non profit during work hours

\$65.00 per hour for each discipline for non profit off hours including employee travel time

\$50.00 per hour for each discipline during work hours, min of 1 hour billed in 15 minute increments after the first hour

\$80.00 per hour for each discipline off work hours including travel time for employees minimum of 1.5 hours billed in 15 minute increments after the first 1.5 hours

All applicants are also responsible for fees related to State Trooper requirements and any other permits required by Building, Fire or Health.

Everbridge Use List

- 1. Severe Weather
- 2. Road Closures Due To Accidents
- 3. Referendum/Election Voting
- 4. Bolton Lake Treatments/Algae Notification/Closings.
- 5. Health Concerns/COVID.
- 6. Any Other Public Service Notifications deemed of Importance.

July Highlights from Interim Town Administrator

- > Indian Notch Park opened
- ➤ Indian Notch Park swimming closed due to elevated levels of Cyanobacteria 7/29, weekly water tests planned until reopening
- > Town buildings reopened to public with plans in place
- > Interim Town Administrator made visits to Library and Senior Center to observe reopening in action
- > During extreme rain event we had flooding in two basements in Town buildings. No damage was done but pump out was required
- Continued progress on new website
- Successful vaccination clinic at Library
- Met with All American Waste and received a community reinvestment check of \$2,500.00
- Met with CIRMA and received a check for \$13,460.00
- ➤ Met with area Town Administrators
- > Took in a building permit for Dollar General on Boston Turnpike
- Moving forward with connectivity grant next steps
- Completed FEMA paperwork for TS Isaias
- > Received resignation letter from Recreation Director

Respectfully submitted

James Rupert