

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021, 7:00 P.M. VIRTUAL  
MINUTES**

		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
First Selectman	Sandra Pierog	X	
Deputy First Selectman	Kim Miller	X	
Selectman	Robert DePietro	X	
Selectman	Mike Eremita	X	
Selectman	Robert Morra	X	
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

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.

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

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.