

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022, 7:00 P.M. HYBRID
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES**

		Present	Absent
First Selectman	Pam Sawyer	X	
Selectman	Adam Teller - remote	X	
Selectman	Robert DePietro - remote	X	
Selectman	Mike Eremita	X	
Selectman Deputy First Selectman	Robert Morra	X	
Interim Administrative Officer	Jim Rupert	X	
Members of the Public			

1. Call to Order:

By: Sawyer

Time: 8:23 p.m.

Place: Hybrid

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. Public Comment:

Unidentified speaker – A report or study of what transpired will be helpful to her regarding additional town hall space.

Richard Treat, 8 Lyman Road. – His attendance as a Zoom attendee was dismal. He felt like a tenth-class citizen. People had four times to speak in the room before the virtual attendees were called on. The BOS should find a way to vote via Zoom participation.

Rodney Fournier – The inflation and the cost of building is going up rapidly. The cost is just going to increase. The BOS should expand the cost of everything. In six years it is not going to be \$5 million.

Arlene Fiano – Additional town hall space has been talked about for 20+ years. Bolton is now at a breaking point. It is going to take the next 10 years to get the public on board. The problem with spending that much money and getting the town behind it is going to take years. The BOS needs to rally the public behind it. Without getting the public behind us it is not going to happen. Suggest it somehow become a topic of conversation to explain to the people. Get the other 99% of the town to be educated. The BOE budget got voted down tonight. Why do we lump items together? Eremita: We are bound by ordinance.

Ross Lally, 41 Notch Road – He was on the BOF for several years. The school has a very good five year plan. The Supertendant can explain the entire budget. He has watched the

schools being added onto. The BOS has to tell the story of the need for additional space at Town Hall to better show how this helps the town. The BOS is doing the town a disservice by not having a well crafted story.

Kathy Nelson – She is at the church next door a lot. An ugly building is not going to cut it.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. March 8, 2022 – Budget Workshop #8

B. March 15, 2022 – A/P Meeting

C. March 29, 2022 – A/P Meeting

D. April 5, 2022 – Regular Meeting

E. April 12, 2022 – A/P Meeting

F. April 26, 2022 – A/P Meeting

4. Appointments and Resignations

A. B. Amundsen– Resignation

Rupert: Bruce Amundsen has been with us for a long time. He submitted a letter of resignation effective May 1, 2022.

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the letter of resignation of Bruce Amundsen with gratitude and regret.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: DePietro: He is a hard act to follow.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Sawyer, Teller, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

Sawyer: Add to agenda as 4.B. – G. Silver – Resignation

B. G. Silver - Resignation

Rupert: Has received a letter of resignation from Gary Silver effective May 27, 2022. He has family and job opportunities in the Cambridge, MA area. This will be a great loss to the team and is another hard act to follow. Sawyer: It has been a pleasure to work with him.

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen accept the letter of resignation of Gary Silver with gratitude and regret.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Sawyer, Teller, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

5. Reports & Updates:

A. Properties and Facilities Report

a. Consider and Act on 3 Year Perrachio Property Lease to L. Pesce

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen extend a three year lease of the Perrachio property to L. Pesce.

By: Morra

Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Sawyer, Teller, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

b. Bolton Congregational Church Office Space

Gwen Marrion, 38 Maple Valley Road, was present representing the Bolton Congregational Church. Thank you to Pam Sawyer for bringing to the church's attention there may be a temporary building near Town Hall. Thank you to DePietro, Teller, and Eremita for touring the education building with Mr. Treat.

Marrion: Is here to talk about an alternative offering up for discussion a lease of space in the education building. A floor plan of the education building was given. The church is offering 1,400 sq. feet of classroom space which is slightly more than what is used at the Notch Road building. The area in gray is for exclusive town use and yellow shows shared space. We would offer the market rate rent to the town. At roughly \$15 sq. feet plus utilities that comes out to \$22k per year.

Eremita: The amount of savings would not show up as a savings to the town because this is rent money versus capital money. This would increase our budget by \$75k for three years.

Marrion: This solves the goal of having temporary space. The church would be offering more space with the shared space available for large meetings. The hall seats 125-150 people. It is handicapped accessible. Both bathrooms are ADA accessible. The building was recently renovated. The duration of the lease would be a minimum of five years. Teller expressed discomfort this is owned by a church and employees or residents may have problems with entering the church owned building for town business. The church has never had any complaints of those that used the church for activities other than church events. Many groups meet here; it is being rented by community members for personal parties. She hopes the BOS wants to continue the conversation.

Teller: It's not just discomfort. It is philosophical and constitutional objections to using a building like this. There are the issues of security, of privacy, and the space cannot be partitioned off. The town may have the need for surveillance cameras at some point. Are people going to want to have their children on camera? Will the church strip the hallway of all references to religion? We are very friendly, neighborly, and happy with

each other until we are not. Interspered public functions with religious functions is objectionable. If the church were to lease the entire building that would be different but sharing the space is objectionable. He appreciates the effort, the offer, and the depth of the church's objection to having a temporary building nearby their property This is not the answer. He will not only not vote for it, he will try to stop it.

Eremita: Does not agree completely. He does respect the separation of church and state. The Buddhist church worships during the week? Marrion: Friday night or all day Saturday. Eremita: It is a religious group that is meeting there. The non-connectivity of the three spaces which will make it hard for people to function and there will be intermingling of church work and town work. The spaces are not adjacent to each other. That part bothers him. He appreciates the church willing to lease us this space. If the santurary is unusable the office space will become truly a church. He has lost touch with religion. It does bother him for office space to be there. He would have a problem going in as Selectman or to do work with the town. If it upsets him it will upset someone else. He would say thank you but no.

DePietro: Still thinks it could be adjusted somehow. For the time being it is a successful interim way to handle this. He was excited on hearing of this at the beginning but understands some of the points made. One to two years maybe and have something in the lease to alleviate those concerns.

Marrion: The town has used St. Maurice for voting at least once. Sawyer: That is not a BOS decision. That is the Registrar of Voters under the Secretary of State. It is their purview to pick the place. Marrion: A religious school meets at the Notch Road building. Teller: That was before his time. Marrion: She thinks it is an option. There is a space need. There is no iconology in the building except for one mural. It is being used as a community hall. It is unlikely there will be religious education going on during hours of business. Conversations can be had about some of the concerns.

Morra: The BOS can enter a three year lease. Beyond that time period it has to go to a town meeting. He would not consider this unless he had a comfort level that we could have it for seven years. We have to garner enough taxpayer votes to spend \$4 - \$5 mill. for a permanent solution; this is a difficult process when it is not about the schools. That would have to be proposed at a time that is conceivably affordable. He appreciates the church coming back with something else to look at. He will listen and digest this.

Eremita: Renting that space for seven to ten years will cost significantly more than leasing a building for three years that we then own and could resell it.

B. FY 21 Budget Report

a. Current Budget

Rupert: Happy to report spending is where we expect it to be. There are no red flags. This is the time of year we see budget transfers as departments seek to utilize their budgets.

b. Consideration of Future Referendum Dates (June 7/June 21)

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen hold the dates of June 7, 2022, and June 21, 2022, as future referendum dates.

By: Morra

Eremita seconded the motion with the amendment that we do our best to not hold the voting at St. Maurice.

Amended motion: I move the Board of Selectmen hold the dates of June 7, 2022, and June 21, 2022, as future referendum dates and if possible hold the voting at some other location than St. Maurice.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: DePietro asked Eremita the reason not holding the vote at the church?

Eremita: Because of the expressed concerns of separation of church and state. At the last vote he realized later that he deviated from his feelings. This is not a hard, fast rule for him if we can find an appropriate alternative. DePietro: Made a big case for people being able to get into an accessible location. It is tough to get into Town Hall.

Eremita: The Town Hall does not meet the requirements of the Secretary of State that oversees elections.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Sawyer, Teller, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

C. Budget Transfers

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN	BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN	BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET: <u>Town Building Operations</u> Transfer \$ <u>5,000.00</u> from category <u>Supplies</u> to category <u>Repairs & Maintenance</u> (within budget) from # <u>1005-041-4137-000000-56015-00000</u> to # <u>1005-041-4137-000000-56185-00000</u> Transfer \$ _____ from Budget _____ to Budget _____ from category _____ to category _____ from # _____-000000-000000 _____-000000 to # _____-000000-000000 _____-000000 Other \$ _____ Explanation: <u>To better fill accounting procedures, fund in supplies</u> <u>Money to be transferred into repairs</u> Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Title: <u>Selectman</u> Date: <u>4/18/22</u>	BUDGET: <u>Town Building Operations</u> Transfer \$ <u>1,632.00</u> from category <u>Supplies</u> to category <u>Vehicle</u> (within budget) from # <u>1005-041-4137-000000-56112-00000</u> to # <u>1005-041-4137-000000-57320-00000</u> Transfer \$ _____ from Budget _____ to Budget _____ from category _____ to category _____ from # _____-000000-000000 _____-000000 to # _____-000000-000000 _____-000000 Other \$ _____ Explanation: <u>To cover the increase in cost of the new</u> <u>truck due to the meter around it no longer</u> <u>available</u> Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Title: <u>Selectman</u> Date: <u>4/18/22</u>	BUDGET: <u>Town Clerk</u> Transfer \$ <u>42.00</u> from category <u>Professional Education Training</u> to category <u>Dues & Fees</u> (within budget) from # <u>1005-041-4147-000000-58200-00000</u> to # <u>1005-041-4147-000000-58100-00000</u> Transfer \$ _____ from Budget _____ to Budget _____ from category _____ to category _____ from # _____-000000-000000 _____-000000 to # _____-000000-000000 _____-000000 Other \$ _____ Explanation: <u>To cover extra Town Clerk county mtgs</u> <u>due to Talland county hosting FALL Conference</u> Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Title: <u>Town Clerk</u> Date: <u>4-27-2022</u>

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen approve the three transfers requested.

- Town Building Operations transfer \$5,000 from Supplies to Repairs & Maintenance
- Town Building Operations transfer \$1,632 from Supplies to Vehicle
- Town Clerk transfer \$42 from Professional Education Training to Dues & Fees

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Sawyer, Teller, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

6. Ongoing Business:

A. Discuss Meeting Date with Farm Commission for Study

Rupert: The Farm Commission has been working on a study paid for by a grant for the future use of the farm. The Commission is ready to present that study and plan. This will be held as a hybrid meeting. May 16, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. was proposed by the BOS. Arlene Fiano will send this possible date out to her group.

7. New Business:

A. Consider and Act on Affordable Housing Plan

Sawyer: We need to vote on this this month to comply with a State requirement. There is one item she finds discomfoting. She does not agree with having old annual housing permit data from 2017 for a report being submitted to the state.

Teller: Has no problem with the plan. DePietro: He did not study it. Eremita: On page 6 what year is the median income from? Rupert: He did not generate the report. This was worked on by the Uconn student with Patrice Carson and Mike D'Amato. They addressed all the concerns the BOS raised from the last meeting. Morra: It looks like it is data from the 2020 census.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen to accept the Affordable Housing Plan to be submitted to the State.

By: Morra

Seconded: Teller

Discussion: Morra: We will give them their report and they will shelf it with all the other reports.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, Sawyer, Teller

Against: None

Abstain: DePietro

B. Consider and Possibly Act On Giveback Amount for BOF

Rupert: Items identified by him and the CFO of monies that will be unexpended in this fiscal year. These are additional give backs to seed the budget for next year:

Fire Fighter Retention - Empl Benefits	\$ 2,000.00
Unemployment Comp.	\$ 5,000.00
Mileage	\$ 2,000.00
Other Payroll - P&Z	\$ 1,000.00
Due & Fees - P&Z	\$ 890.00
Other Contracts - Probate	\$ 287.00
Economic Development	\$ 1,570.00
Other Payroll - Highway	\$ 300.00
Salt & Sand - Highway	\$ 27,000.00

\$ 40,047.00

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen to authorize the transfer of unexpended monies totaling \$40,047 to the BOF.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Discussion: Sawyer: She reviewed these with Rupert to make sure something does not fall apart.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, DePietro, Sawyer, Teller

Against: None

Abstain: None

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. COVID-19

Sawyer: The EHHD report for this week indicates the town is in the green. The CDC disagrees with how the State looks at numbers. The State is not talking about doing anything differently. She predicts we may move to yellow in the next couple of weeks.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Monthly Report

5/2/22

May Highlights

From Interim Town Administrative Officer

- > LOTCIP grant completed
- > Working on connectivity trail project
- > Help public hearing on 4/26
- > Special Town meeting to move funds for school projects
- > Affordable housing plan presentation
- > Continue work on connectivity trail
- > Held a trails committee meeting
- > Facilitated repairs to a bridge in Freja Park
- > Began Union negotiations
- > Completed wrap up with UCONN students on water line project
- > Attended CRCOG Policy Board MTG
- > Attended EHHD Board of Directors meeting
- > Attended CTCMA meeting
- > EMPG grant award for 22/22
- > Renewed LAP policy
- > Continuing negotiations on trash removal contract
- > Continuing the budget process
- > Sent out invitations for Korean War Veterans event
- > Continued work on technology plan and placed a computer order
- > We posted in house for the Crewman III position
- > Meet with Highway Department staff regarding continuity of operations during staff absences
- > Met with new evening Trooper Messier
- > Collaboration with Rob Miller regarding lake communications for algae blooms/ draft policy disseminated
- > Had CONN DOT meeting regarding 384/44 interchange
- > Held a unified command meeting
- > Annual report is completed

Respectfully submitted,

James Rupert
Interim Town Administrative Officer

B. LoCIP Grant, Connectivity Grant

Rupert: Reported on above.

C. Other

Sawyer: Adding to the agenda – Assistant Building Official appointment.

Rupert: Our Building Official will be on leave. Carlton Smith and Joseph Callahan, former building inspectors in other towns, are available during the leave period.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen appoint Calton Smith and Joseph Callahan as Acting Assistant Building Inspectors.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, DePietro, Sawyer, Teller

Against: None

Abstain: None

Sawyer: Adding to the agenda – Act on a Request from the Registrar of Voters

Rupert: The Registrar of Voters employees have been paid to attend statutory meetings for training at \$35 for the day. The department is requesting they be paid at their normal hourly rate. They have put it in their budget so the money is there. Sawyer: It was in last year's budget and approved with a description. Other town employees who go to training and meetings are paid at their hourly rate.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen authorize the payment at their hourly rate to the Registrar of Voters employees for statutory training meetings.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Discussion: Morra: Is this for the remaining of this fiscal year? Rupert: This will be paid out of this year's budget.

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, DePietro, Sawyer, Teller

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion: I move the Board of Selectmen approve a policy of compensation for employees in the Registrar of Voters department at their hourly pay rate for training making this equal to the policy of other employees for training.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, DePietro, Sawyer, Teller

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion: I move the Board of Selectment add to the agenda setting another meeting date for a Town Meeting and to share the invitation to the Korean Veterans recognition ceremony.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Morra, Eremita, DePietro, Sawyer, Teller

Against: None

Abstain: None

Korean Era Veterans Recognition

Sawyer: The Lt. Governor and Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs will come to Bolton to recognize Korean War era veterans. Our veterans have been contacted. The recognition will occur on May 13, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Setting another date for the Town Meeting

Rupert: The BOS will schedule a special meeting to vet the next move and then have another town meeting to vote on it. We can't have the special meeting fast enough. There are time constraints for the call for the town meeting on that agenda item and a vote held at

the end of the month. He proposes a hybrid special meeting for May 11, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. At the meeting the BOS will address the issue of the five year capital improvement plan as presented by the BOS and the BOE.

DePietro: Who is going to do the research for the options presented by the citizens this evening? Sawyer: The administration will prepare for that meeting and bring back responses and give a presentation.

Sawyer: Recessed for ten minutes at 9:50 p.m.

10. Executive Session: Discuss Strategy for Union Negotiations

The BOS entered executive session at _____ p.m.

The BOS exited executive session at _____ p.m.

11. Adjournment:

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

By:

Seconded:

Voting:

For: Morra, DePietro, Sawyer, Teller, Eremita

Against: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne B. Filip

Yvonne B. Filip, Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary

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