

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023
REGULAR MEETING.
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL – TOWN HALL
MINUTES**

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, with First Selectman Pam Sawyer presiding. Also in attendance were Selectmen: Robert Morra, Mike Eremita, Bob DePietro, Adam Teller; Town Administrator Jim Rupert and Kathy McCavanagh.

Members of the public included: Amanda Gordon, Rodney Fournier and Tim Johnston.

1. Call to Order.

P. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment.

Tim Johnston spoke of a recent article and seminar regarding fraud practices currently affecting homeowners. Recently a gentleman who owned a vacant lot had it sold out from under him, and a million-dollar house was being built on it unbeknownst to him. The Town Clerk of Fairfield is now using a Land Record Vendor that will notify property owners if someone is trying to take over their property without their knowledge. Mr. Johnston suggested this may be something the Town of Bolton should look into, and provided the BOS with a CTINSIDER article on this. (See exhibit A).

Amanda Gordon asked that the BOS consider the recommendation for the Mission Statement from the Diversity Committee. She also stated she has heard complaints that some handicapped parking spaces at Town properties are not labeled correctly and maybe we could put something out to see what exactly the citizen need.

3. Approval of Minutes:

a. July 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting.

Motion: B. DePietro made a motion to accept the July 11, 2023, minutes as presented.

1st: B. DePietro

2nd: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: B. DePietro, M. Eremita, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: R. Morra

b. July 25, 2023 – Special A/P Meeting.

Motion: B. DePietro made a motion to accept the July 25, 2023, minutes as presented.

1st: B. DePietro

2nd: R. Morra

Vote:

Yes: B. DePietro, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: M. Eremita

4. Appointments: BOS Needs to Appoint Alternate for ZBA.

a. Thomas Lyon – To ZBA Alternate – Endorsed by Republican Town Committee.

Motion: R. Morra made a motion to approve the appointment of Thomas Lyon to ZBA alternate.

1st: R. Morra

2nd: A. Teller

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, B. DePietro, P. Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: A. Teller

5. New Business:

a. Consider and Act on Resolution for Homeland Security Grant.

Motion: M. Eremita made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Homeland Security Grant.

1st: M. Eremita

2nd: B. DePietro

Vote:

Yes: M. Eremita, B. DePietro, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion: R. Morra made a motion to add the EMPG Grant Resolution to the Agenda (5e).

1st: R. Morra

2nd: A. Teller

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, A. Teller, B. DePietro, P. Sawyer, M. Eremita

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion: R. Morra made a motion to add the Bid Waiver to the Agenda (5f).

1st: R. Morra

2nd: A. Teller

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, A. Teller, B. DePietro, P. Sawyer, M. Eremita

No: None

Abstain: None

b. Consider and Act on Resident State Trooper Contract.

Motion: M. Eremita made a motion to accept Resident State Trooper contract.

1st: M. Eremita

2nd: R. Morra

Discussion: Contract is a little less than last contract due to lower benefits cost. M. Eremita again stressed the lack of police protection in town and the extended wait times when a trooper is called. He would like to see us reach out to the surrounding towns and see if we can't work something out for someone to always be covering Bolton, Andover and Columbia and Hebron. We should pool our resources and hire troopers as a group and schedule them as needed so our 4-towns are always covered.

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, B. DePietro, A. Teller, P. Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

c. Discussion on Changing Tax Payments from Once to Twice a Year.

There has been an email and phone call over resident's concern of paying the taxes this year. Because the rates have gone up so much some are asking that we revisit the possibility of making two tax payments per year instead of one.

With the interest rates going up so much it would cost the town a sizable amount to cover the time to do a second tax bill and get that money collected. We currently have 99 to 100% compliance with one payment per year. Some people may have an issue paying the tax amount once a year but the rest of the town residents shouldn't have to float these people because of it. Two payments a year has major fiscal ramifications on the town. Taxes would have to go up more to cover the short fall until the 2nd payment was collected. As in previous years, if someone is having an issue, they should talk to the tax collector; as she is usually willing to work it out with them.

d. Discussion and Approval on Updated Department of Finance Policies and Procedures Manual.

Motion: R. Morra made a motion to approve the Department of Finance Policies and Procedures Manual with the red line edits as presented.

1st: R. Morra

2nd: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, B. DePietro, P. Sawyer, M. Eremita

No: None

Abstain: A. Teller

e. Consider and Act on Resolution for the EMPG Grant.

Motion: R. Morra made a motion to approve the Resolution for the EMPG grant.

1st: R. Morra

2nd: A. Teller

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, A. Teller, B. DePietro, P. Sawyer, M. Eremita

No: None

Abstain: None

f. Consider and Act on the Resolution to Waive the Bid for Stone for the Trail.

Motion: R. Morra made a motion to approve the Resolution to Waive the Bid for Stone for the Trail.

1st: R. Morra

2nd: B. DePietro

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, A. Teller, B. DePietro, P. Sawyer, M. Eremita

No: None

Abstain: None

6. Ongoing Business: None.

7. Reports and Updates:

a. Properties and Facilities Admin. Report.

i. Temporary Building

Things are starting to move along for the temporary building. We are finalizing floor plans and will be sending them over to Wilscot. Had an onsite meeting with the excavator person, highway and building and grounds supervisors. We will be turning the building so that the long side is facing the road and parallel with the old building.(the front side of the building will actually face the highway garage). This will provide us better access and another 20-30 feet for when we do the tear down of the old building. Wilscot has estimated 3-4 weeks for build time. In the meantime, we will do site prep. Hope to have the new building on site in September and then the town staff will do the stairs and ramps.

ii. Connectivity Trail

Work on the trail is moving forward. We're having a little trouble with washouts on the trail in a couple spots but once the grass grows in, we feel this will prevent that happening. Landi Construction will start piping the week of August 21st and expect it to take 3-5 days. Bartlett Tree preservation is on notice to help with trees along the trail. The goal is to be done with Bolton Center Road prior to the start of the school year.

iii. Library Patio

Patio will be going behind the library. We currently have 2 bids and are waiting for a 3rd. Hope to be completed by the end of September but can ask for a 30-day extension if needed.

b. Cyber Upgrades.

• Moving to (.Gov) Domain.

We've been working with NOVUS to get our cyber security taken care of and expect the town to be moved over to the (.Gov) domain by the end of next week.

c. FY 24 Budget Report.

Currently showing 87% expended but expect this to go up greatly once the Trooper contract is paid.

d. Budget Transfers.

Informational purposes only.

e. A/P Report.

Motion: B. DePietro made a motion to approve the A/P report as presented.

1st: B. DePietro 2nd: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: B. DePietro, M. Eremita, R. Morra, A. Teller, P. Sawyer,

No: None

Abstain: None

7. First Selectman's Report.

Webster Lane – we are still waiting on the engineering report.

Brush Truck has been posted on the website with a reserve of \$5,000.00.

Town Administrator evaluation needs to be done before the new contract (Due before November 1st). Needs to go before the Personnel Subcommittee.

DOT – Flyover bridges at the Notch will both be re-painted by DOT. Pam has also requested help in getting them to re-examine the end of 384 design and completing it.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

a. Monthly Report.

b. Other.

We should think about a ribbon cutting/open house once the new temporary building is completed.

Quarterly supervisor meetings will start in September. Liz Thornton to host the first one.

Liz Thornton also researching EV charging stations grants to possibly put a charging station at the library.

10. Adjournment.

P. Sawyer adjourned the meeting at 8:15.

Next A/P meeting to be scheduled for: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McCavanagh

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