

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL A/P MEETING and BUDGET WORKSHOP  
7:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023  
BOLTON TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD  
In-Person and Virtual (Hybrid Format)**

**MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Members Present In-Person:** First Selectman Pamela Sawyer, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra

**Board of Selectmen Members Present Via Zoom:** Michael Eremita, Adam Teller

**Board of Selectmen Members Absent:** Robert DePietro

**Staff Present In-Person:** Interim Administrative Officer James Rupert

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

**Others Present Via Zoom:** Amanda Gordon, Ashley Phelan (7:23 p.m.)

1. Call to Order: P. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Consider and Act on A/P

R. Morra MOVED to accept the A/P report as presented. M. Eremita SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

3. Consider and Act on Budget Transfers: There were no transfers to be considered.
4. Discussion on Budgets:  
The board continued their review and discussion on the proposed FY2024 Town Proper budgets.

The board revisited the budget for Economic Development and consensus was to leave the \$5,000 in the Shared Services line item at this time.

J. Rupert commented in a couple of the budgets the folks have submitted, they have put placeholders in their budgets under their payroll accounts for 3% wage increases. He said just because the Board of Selectmen may or may not cut money out of that, it does not mean the wage increase will be 3% for next year. The BOS will act on those pay increases at some point just before the new fiscal year.

- 4.1 Fire Commission:  
M. Eremita explained the reasons behind the increases in Fire/Security Maintenance and Supply, Communications, and Equipment line items. Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
- 4.2 Animal Control – Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
- 4.3 Fire Marshal – Consensus of the board was to remove \$800 from the Supplies and \$200 from the Equipment line items.
- 4.4 Emergency Management- J. Rupert said he thinks the payroll is covered by the Emergency Management Performance Grant. Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
- 4.5 Highway Department –J. Rupert noted the town has collected \$12,000 from nip bottle collection fees that can be put toward road sweeping. The cost of sand and salt has increased by 15%. J. Rupert said the town is working on the bid for diesel fuel, but it is too early to price. The Road

- Repairs line item is up 18%. Discussion followed if that line was cut, would that mean less roads would be done. Consensus of the board was to ask Highway Supervisor Lance Dimock to report how many miles of road are expected to be done, what roads are on the schedule, and will the roads be paved or milled. Consensus of the board was to re-visit the Road Paving, Diesel Fuel & Gasoline, and Sand & Salt line items and to reduce the Road Sweeping line item by \$12,000.
- 4.6 Public Building Commission – Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
  - 4.7 Town Building Operations – Discussion followed on whether money would be saved in the Repairs & Maintenance and Electricity budgets if the Notch Road Municipal Center (NRMC) is torn down. Consensus of the board was to ask the director to reduce the budget by \$15,000 and re-submit to the board. It was noted that money can be moved within the budget if needed.
  - 4.8 Public Health – J. Rupert said this is a contracted service and is subsidized by grants from the state. Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
  - 4.9 Veterans’ Services – Consensus of the board was to remove \$400 from Signage and move it to the Highway Department operating budget.
  - 4.10 Senior & Social Services – J. Rupert noted the costs of parts for the van are increasing. Consensus of the board was to ask the department head to reduce the budget by \$5,000 and submit a revised budget to the board.
  - 4.11 Library –J. Rupert said the library has received three refurbished computers from the school system and will get a remote Owl camera system from Town Hall this year. These are two items in the FY2024 Equipment line request. Consensus of the board was to reduce the Equipment line item by \$4,000 and the Library Materials line item by \$1,000.
  - 4.12 Recreation – J. Rupert said the Recreation Director salary will be discussed at the Personnel subcommittee tomorrow. The subcommittee will bring suggestions to the full board. P. Sawyer said the Indian Notch fees will be determined at a regular board meeting. Consensus of the board is to reduce the Interagency Purchased Services line item by \$15,275.
  - 4.13 Conservation Commission – Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
  - 4.14 Refuse Services – Consensus of the board was to make no changes at this time.
  - 4.15 Transfer Out-Separation Fund – No action.

J. Rupert reported the town may be able to procure an option on a used unit skid steer with only 100 hours on it for money already in the budget.

- 5. Adjournment: R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. M. Eremita SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

*Linda H. McDonald*

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