



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676

TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Smilie Memorial School
February 29, 2016
7 p.m.

- Announcements prior to calling Town Meeting to order:
 1. Representatives Tom Stevens & Theresa Woods:
 - Town Meeting Report provided; an update for the first 6 weeks of the session.
 - Tom noted: his eighth year and eighth year with a monumental gap in the budget – very draining. A major factor for the gap this year is more access to Medicaid services through VT Health Connect. 96.5% of Vermonters now have access to healthcare. Other big issue: marijuana legalization. Honored to present a Proclamation to artist Alison Bechdel, recipient of a 2014 MacArthur fellowship, and Tony award winner.
 - Theresa noted: she was appointed by Governor Shumlin last fall to fill Rebecca Ellis's seat. Currently working on safety and security in state buildings, and bills on corrections and water quality.
 - Both expressed that they were always available to residents and that they were privileged to hear thoughts and share issues.
 2. Andrew Pond: MMMUSD representative:
 - Brief review of history, dissolution of the BSD Board, rotation of meetings through different buildings in the district.
 - No substantial changes in the district, and very little change that affects students.
 - The tax rate in Bolton is down 5%, and is in good shape for next year.
 3. Deb Shelby: Planning Commission – Town Plan
 - The Town Plan rewrite is to be completed by May 2017, recipient of MPG grant to draft the plan, pilot project with the state to test the new planning manual, community forums have been completed, an Economic Resource Committee has been formed to assist the PC, & UVM students are assisting with mapping.
 - Noted: the importance of the town plan and community involvement, vision statement available and input requested.
 4. Steve Barner: Art Contest – “The Spirit of Bolton”
 - Thank you to everyone who entered "The Spirit of Bolton" art contest. You made the judges' decisions challenging and gave the Planning Commission some beautiful pieces to incorporate into the Town Plan. Thank you to the contest supporters. Winners:
Pre-K to 4th Grade:
 - 1st Place Zera May Westie ~ West Bolton Mushroom
 - 2nd Place Rosa Ricketson ~ The Spirit of Bolton5th to 8th Grade:
 - 1st Place Madi Cohen ~The Woods in Our Eyes

2nd Place Emma Locher ~The Newt of West Bolton
High School/Adult:

1st Place Natasha Bogar ~ Bryant Cabin

2nd Place Julie Longstreth ~ Boulders and Bears

5. 2016 Good Citizen of the Year - Joan Pecor

Call to Order

- Moderator Joss Besse called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., and reviewed Robert's Rules of Order, and asked that nonresidents identify themselves reminding them that they could not participate in any vote.
- Moderator Joss Besse noted that Articles 1, 2, and 3 would be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 1, 2016 and opened discussion.
 - No discussion on Articles 1, 2, or 3.

Article 4 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton accept the Town Report?

Motion: Jerry Mullen

Second: John Devine

No further discussion. The moderator called for a vote. All were in favor. Article 4 passed.

Article 5 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$927,490 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Motion: Jerry Mullen

Second: Tom Haviland

Jerry Mullen: I suggest that the Select Board stipend be raised to \$15 per meeting for a total of \$1,800 per year, an increase of \$600.

Joss Besse: The Select Board stipend is warned for Article 9, would you be willing to withdraw this request and have it considered under that Article rather than now?

Jerry Mullen: Agreed.

Steve McLeod: How does this year's budget compare to last year's budget?

Jen Dudley-Gaillard: There is a 3.949% increase over last year's budget in part due to rising health insurance costs, increasing the reserves line items, and the purchase of a 2016 International truck.

Ralph Deslauriers: The inflation rate is 1.2%, the budget is up 3.5%, is the budget going to go up 3 times the inflation rate every year?

Ron Lafreniere: We can't say how much the budget will go up or down every year. In the last five or six budgets we were sensitive to the increasing school budget and the town suffered because of that – holding the line and reducing line items and deposits to reserves. We are looking to the future and putting money aside for capital expenses, and reflecting anticipated expenditures.

Sharon Murray: We also established a capital planning committee made up of current and past Select Board members and residents, and are working to establish a regular equipment replacement schedule. We are putting more money into the Fire Equipment Reserve fund and increased that line item. We tried to be conservative to the overall operating budget.

No further discussion. The moderator called for a vote. The ayes carried with one nay. Article 5 passed.

Article 6 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2016, November 15, 2016, February 15, 2017, and May 15, 2017?

Motion: Jerry Mullen

Second: Bernie Moore

No further discussion. The moderator called for a vote. All were in favor. Article 6 passed.

Article 7 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize interest charges on all delinquent taxes of real and personal property of one (1) percent per month? Interest accrues as soon as the payment is late.

Motion: John Devine

Second: Jerry Mullen

No further discussion. The moderator called for a vote. All were in favor. Article 7 passed.

Article 8 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to borrow money for the necessary needs of the Town as they arise?

Motion: Steve Barner

Second: Jen Botzjorns

No further discussion. The moderator called for a vote. All were in favor. Article 8 passed.

Article 9~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton establish expenses for the members of the Select Board?

Motion: Jerry Mullen - to increase the Select Board stipend to \$15 per meeting.

Second: Steve Peery

Steve Peery: it's about time for an increase.

Ralph: this does exceed the 3.494 % (laughter).

Jen Dudley-Gaillard: we do accept donations of candy for the office candy bowl, and prefer dark chocolate (laughter).

Jerry Mullen: I just want to know if this increase can come out of the budget we have voted or have we voted a \$600 increase.

Sharon: It would be an addition to what we voted on.

Steve Barner: I just want to mention that the Planning Commission doesn't get paid anything, but the Select Board said you get what you pay for (laughter).

No further discussion. The moderator called for a vote. The ayes carried with one nay. Article 9 passed.

Article 10 ~ To transact any other business thought proper when met.

Bolton's Own Little Libraries – Rosa Ricketson. We want to thank the Richmond Library for the donation of books. We have a table here, help yourselves to a book then return it to one of the seven little libraries in town and take another book. Our libraries are open 24/7 with books for all ages. Thank you!

Economic Development Committee – Armand Bernagozzi: This committee is an outgrowth of Planning Commission, and we are seeking approval from the Select Board next week to become an official town sanctioned committee. We meet every other week, folks are welcome to come. We are looking to help existing businesses grow and to bring new businesses to town. We have a flyer available; call me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Wheeler Field – Sarah Farrell: For years the Wheeler Field property has been used by residents for fireworks, weddings and ballgames, thanks to the generosity of the owners. Owners must now sell the land due to financial obligations. A group of community members have gathered to guide how this change could keep Wheeler Field available for community use. We invite all to join the discussion, there is a sign-up sheet by the exit. Thank you.

Jerry Mullen: The ¼ cent on the tax rate might help preserve Wheeler Field. I also want to mention that there is misinformation on H.40 the carbon tax bill, keep yourself informed, and don't believe the hog wash.

Tony Barbagallo: The ¼ cent for Wheeler Field - Jerry covered it.

Jen Botzjoorns: with respect to the opioid epidemic and Richmond Rescue being here, there are three things that we all can do: #1, go through your medicine cabinet and drop off unused medications at the Richmond Police department. #2, if someone in your family is having a procedure and is prescribed medications, ask about the amounts – maybe you don't need 30 pills, maybe you need 3. #3, if you are concerned about someone there is a lot of resource information on the Richmond Rescue table. This is a problem in our communities and I urge everyone to take action.

Dylan Barbagallo: I have a question about the Potholes;” what is happening to that area?

Amy Grover: There have not been any papers recorded in the town showing that there has been a transfer of ownership of that property.

David Parot: I signed a contract for the property and put down a deposit, my attorney has done due diligence with the title search and we are moving toward closing on March 30th.

Steve Barner: I want to clarify what David said, he can't "buy" the Potholes, he can buy the land but he can't buy the water, all the water in the state belongs to the people.

Moderator Joss Besse asked if there was any other business. There was none.

Motion: Duncan Galbraith to adjourn the meeting (7:50 p.m.)

Second: Jerry Mullen

Moderator Joss Besse adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover
Town Clerk & Treasurer

These minutes were accepted on March 7, 2016.



Ron Laffreniere, Select Board



Josh Arneson, Select Board