



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Select Board Minutes
February 16, 2015

Board members present: Gene Armstrong, Josh Arneson, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Sharon Murray
Board members absent: Ron Lafreniere
Also present: Rebecca Ellis
Clerk: Amy Grover

1. **The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. with a quorum of four members present.**

2. **Additions or deletions to the agenda:**

Deletions:

- Appointment with Ethan Bogar, Hopjam 2015; not present.

Additions:

- Fireworks Ordinance: Brief discussion. Sharon to provide ordinance information to Josh for drafting.

3. **Public comment – none.**

4. **Appointments:**

Rebecca Ellis – Representative’s Update. Rebecca noted that Tom Stevens was sorry he could not also attend due a meeting conflict, and appreciated the opportunity to hear from Bolton. The group discussed:

- PILOT payment
 - Under the two proposed options Bolton loses PILOT funding from 79K to 59K and 53K.
 - The Planning Commission has documented that over 75% of Bolton’s land is conserved in some manner, and that 50% is in state/federal/town ownership.
 - Concern noted that the reduction in PILOT payment and subsequent increase in taxes would be shouldered by a small group of taxpayers.
 - Options for increasing the Grand List through further development are limited by flood zones and steep slopes.
 - Loss of PILOT funding could impact the town’s support of conservation.

Rebecca noted that a bill being drafted includes carbon value for forests to be entered into the trading program for retaining forest land – may be a strategy in the future; selling carbon assets. Currently, she will follow up specifically on why the values in Bolton changed so much. Noted: Huntington and Waterbury’s PILOT funding increased, and that the town can challenge the state/PVR on assessed values.

- Natural Resource and Energy Committee:
 - Working on a Renewable Portfolio Standard – 29 states have, current proposal would have a tier 3; utility companies providing energy services to consumers.
- FY 15 – 16 State budget: currently a 116 million deficit, initiatives are being debated now and cuts look painful.
- Lake Champlain TMDL: unsure what it will look like for each town and impact of fees for town permits.
- Education:
 - Proposals currently under discussion won’t impact Bolton greatly; elimination of small schools grant, “phantom student” provisions.
 - How taxes are determined – conversation is continuing; “yield proposal” an income based system.
 - Noted: lack of conversation around health care for teachers and use of The Exchange, all the other elements that fall under the education budget.

5. **Business and Action Items:**

Old Business

- Town Website Policy and Privacy Statement: Sharon made the motion *“to adopt the Town of Bolton 2015 Website Policy and Privacy Statement.”* Gene seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor, and the motion passed (4-0).
- Winter Operations Plan Update: Gene made the motion *“to adopt the Town of Bolton Winter Operations Plan & Policy 2015 Amendment.”* Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor, and the motion passed (4-0).
- High Meadows Update: Sharon noted that she and Carol Devlin would be attending a two day summit on climate change/flood resiliency in March and a February meeting on behalf of the town, and were looking for others to take the lead in involvement. Noted: funding for staffing needs to be a part of the grant application.
- 911 Changes on Wentworth and Thacher Roads: E911 has identified 6 incorrect numbers on Wentworth in addition to the 5 incorrect numbers on Thacher. Letter to be drafted from Select Board and Carol Devlin, the town’s 911 coordinator, for the March 9th meeting. Noted: address if the entire town needs review.
- Codes and Standards Adoption – ERAF: Sharon noted she was still working on the draft and obtaining standards for mountainous terrain. Bolton is not applying for the December 2014 event. The town has the opportunity to adopt the state standard as interim should an event occur; i.e. spring flooding.

New Business

- Planning Commission Town Meeting Survey: The group review the draft survey noting that the Planning Commission is seeking input to generate discussion and to provide for community outreach. Two suggested changes: question #3: the speed limit cannot be less than 35 mph per state; question could be reframed to have the town petition the state to reduce the speed limit. Question #7: replace “buildings” with “property.” Sharon to touch base with the PC on changes.
- VMERS increases: Notification from the State Treasurer of increases to the employer contributions for FY 15 – 16; + .0125% = \$1300 increase not budgeted. Changes to the employee contribution will be set by the legislature.
- PILOT Changes: Noted: the Planning Commission wants to send a letter, including partners. Consensus to send a letter from the Select Board and the PC. Amy to get information on assessed value of PILOT properties.
- Local Emergency Operations Plan and ICS Training: Noted LEOP update will be due May 1st. Select Board needs to receive ICS training to sign LEOP. Sharon to follow up with CCRPC on providing training. Identify Bolton’s appointed local emergency management point person.
- Expenditure and Revenue Reports: Distributed.
- Compliance with ACT 148: CSWD had provided additional recycling bins for the town garage and fire station to be in compliance with July 1, 2015 mandates.
- Warrants: Signed.
- Minutes February 2, 2015: Gene made the motion *“to approve the minutes of February 2, 2015.”* Jen seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor, and the motion passed (4-0).

6. Communications:

- Notification from ANR regarding the withdrawal of Jon Groveman; ACT 250 Application #4C0436-26J.

7. Other Business:

- Noted: email to be sent to all town boards highly encouraging their attendance at town meeting and the potluck dinner.
- Noted: need of an easel and copy of the zoning map for the conference room.
- Noted: the DRB is currently reviewing the 4 x 4 Center application and raised concerns regarding retention ponds, seeking review by an engineer. Amy to contact Mike Weisel to see if he would come out of retirement for this task, or McCain Consulting. Brief discussion of having an engineer on retainer, need to tie into a procurement policy.

8. **Closing:** No other business was brought before this Board at this time. Gene made the motion "to close the meeting." Josh seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0), at 8:00 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on:

March 9, 2015



~~Ron Lafreniere, Chair, For the Board~~

Josh Arneson Vice Chair

