



Town of Bolton  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton VT 05676  
Select Board Remote Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2020

Board members present remotely: Tony Barbagallo, Mica Cassara, Lynda DesLauriers (6:05 p.m.), Wendy Hoffman, Janet Metz

Board members absent: none

Also present remotely: Andrew Pond, Joss Besse, Larry St. Peter, Amy Ludwin

Clerk remote: Amy Grover

1. **The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by the Chair, Mica Cassara with a quorum of 4 members present.**

2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**

Additions:

- Approval of FEMA draft Reimbursement Agreement with Kristi Loven and Wes Melville, 64 Boulder Wood Lane. Noted: the BSB reviewed this at a previous meeting and tabled approval until it was determined the contract aligned with VT code, it does, and that the homeowners understood the “seriousness” of the contract. Amy Grover met with the property owners and they stated they understood the contract and potential ramifications. Wendy Hoffman the motion “to approve the draft FEMA Reimbursement Agreement with Kristi Loven and Wes Melville as presented.” Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
- Approval of Town Road ROW Occupancy Request for VEC service to a new residence at 2996 Stage Road. Brief discussion on location. Lynda DesLauriers made the motion “to approve the Town Road ROW Occupancy Request for VEC service to a new residence at 2996 Stage Road.” Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).

3. **Public Comment:** none.

4. **Communications:**

- Annual request for input from the Chittenden County Assistant Judges for the Chittenden County Pre-Budget. Meeting to be held December 18, 2020 via Zoom.
- Invitation to attend the Virtual Chittenden County Municipal Legislative Briefing, December 8, 2020 via Zoom.

5. **Recurring Business:**

- Minutes November 16, 2020: Janet Metz made the motion “to approve the minutes of November 16, 2020 as presented.” Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
- Warrants: Reviewed for signature by Mica Cassara.
- Financial Reports: FEMA DR4380, MPG, Better Roads. Payments totaling \$20,936 received in November for the MPG and Better Roads Grants. FEMA reimbursement request submitted after FEMA noted that the town was correct, there was no final

FEMA nor state payment made of approximately \$65K for closing out FEMA DR4380, May 2018 event.

6. **Appointments:**

1. 6:15 p.m. Andrew Pond – MMUUSD Representative check in. Andrew Pond noted that:

- His MMUUSD Board term expires in March 2021 and he will be running again.
- The MMUUSD has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are working tirelessly to continue to meet needs and educate students under challenging circumstances for all.
- School Resource Officers are a topic of continued discussion. Historically a Richmond Police Department school resource officer has been placed at CHMS and a Chittenden County Sheriff at MMU. The question is how to best meet the needs of students, and if an officer placed in a school accomplishes that objective.
- The foreign language immersion program is now also offered in Richmond and is an option for Bolton students. The program and students within the program are both doing very well.
  - Brief group discussion of expansion of the program to other languages.
- It is early in the process for the MMUUSD budget.
- The timing for the Smilie School outdoor preschool could not have been better, the area is completed and in use.
- Smilie School is seeing steady enrollment with 16 - 17 projected Kindergarten students incoming fall 2021: 70 total students, plus the additional preschool students.
- Summer usage of the Smilie parking lot for access to the Potholes, and Smilie property continues to be a resource drain on school. A no parking mandate during school hours may be explored. The Town Constable has been extremely helpful, kudos to Jonathan Dennis. Reopening discussion with the VT River Conservancy regarding signage, improved trail access etc., is not the focus of the MMUUSD, the focus is educating students.
  - Amy Grover noted that the MOU between the Town and MMUUSD regarding towing from the Smilie School parking lot expires June 2021. Noted: the town will be requesting permission to place no camping signs on school property, and clarification of the enforcement of /inclusion of no parking dusk to dawn in the MOU.
- School board discussions about a study to review educational and financial considerations at the south end of the district have paused during the pandemic. Discussions will likely resume afterwards and could be influenced by state mandates. Plans for a study have been previously noted to the BSB.
  - Brief group discussion. The takeaway is for the town to be engaged in that discussion when/if it occurs and understand the process will be to gain knowledge, not necessarily to take action/make decisions.

7. **Business & Action Items:**

- 6:45 p.m. FY 21-22 Budget Discussion included:
  - a. General Government (Office) budget: currently a 2.3% reduction due to reductions in several line items including salaries, non-general election year, computer equipment, recreation fund. Increases include insurances, electricity,

- auditing services. Creation of reserve fund for town wide re-appraisal requires legal guidance, Amy Grover to follow up with VLCT.
- b. CPC recommendations: Joss Besse provided a brief overview, discussion on vehicle replacement schedules, CPC recommendations, debt and reserve amounts combined to stay at a constant percentage year to year.
  - c. Highway Department Budget: reduction in gravel, discussion on vehicle replacement, use, type, and maintenance costs. Noted: continued maintenance issues with International Truck #1 and potential difficulty to meet its replacement schedule. Brief discussion on repair of garage floor, capital projects, excavator needs, installation of fabric on dirt roads.
  - d. BVFD Budget: questions regarding rescue vehicle to be addressed at the next meeting. Amy Grover to ask Mike Gervia to attend.
- Mad Taco @ Bolton Valley Liquor License Application: Tony Barbagallo made the motion “to approve the Mad Taco @ Bolton Valley’s Liquor License application as presented.” Janet Metz seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0)
  - Review/Approval – Bourne’s Updated Propane Contract: Lynda DesLauriers made the motion “to approve the fixed pricing contract with Bourne’s Energy for \$1.3290/gallon through 10/31/2022” Tony Barbagallo seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) with thanks to Lynda DesLauriers for negotiating the new price for the town.
  - Memorial Donation Rodney Andrews: Janet Metz made the motion “to approve a \$50 donation to the VT Fish and Wildlife Fish Stocking Program in memory of Rodney Andrews.” Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0).
  - Approval for Stitzel Page and Fletcher to Represent the Town/Amy Grover vs. Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company. Brief discussion on the litigation against nine Vermont towns and Town Clerks regarding public record access. Tony Barbagallo made the motion “to approve Stitzel, Page and Fletcher representing the Town of Bolton and Amy Grover with respect to litigation with Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company.” Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0). Wendy Hoffman to follow up on the suit and questions raised by the BSB.
  - Conservation Commission: Request to set membership at a 7-member board with 1 alternate, and to appoint Caroline Blake to a 2-year term, and Pamela Gude to a 3-year term. Amy Grover noted that statute 24 V.S.A. § 4502 does not address alternates, that she contacted the VLCT MAC for clarification but had not heard back. BSB members agreed to table the CC requests until the first BSB January meeting to leave time for legal guidance and for the Conservation Commission to make any adjustments to their requests as needed.
  - Town Meeting 2021 Update, Election of Officers:
    - Brief discussion on focus of working group meeting, plans to mail postcards to registered voters (one per household) regarding the public informational hearing, meeting access, and voting. Further accommodations for Town meeting 2021 are under consideration at the state level.

- Select Board terms of Wendy Hoffman and Tony Barbagallo expire in March 2021. Both noted they are hopeful that others will come forward to run and support their community.
8. **Adjournment:** Tony Barbagallo made the motion “to adjourn the meeting.” Lynda DesLauriers seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) at 8:24 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

*Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on December 14, 2020.*