



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Virtual
Virtual Public Informational Hearing Minutes
Categorized as a Select Board Meeting
February 22, 2021

All participants were present virtually.

Board members present: Tony Barbagallo, Mica Cassara, Lynda DesLauriers, Wendy Hoffman, Janet Metz

Board members absent: none

Also present: Leslie Pelch, Allison & Doug Smith, Amy Ludwin, Henry & Allie Corse, Carol Devlin, Deb Shelby, Ed & Sue Sinnamon, Andrew Pond, Brenda McKeown, Josh Coffee, Larry St. Peter, Paula & Mike Gervia, Steve Barner, Virginia Haviland, "Styer," Lela McCaffrey, Katie Queen, Jonathan Herbst, Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Loree Silvis, Vicky Congdon, Spencer Nowak, Paul Hayes, Kat Lisaius, Ali Kosiba, Luke Ingram

Clerk: Amy Grover

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by the Chair, Mica Cassara with a quorum of 5 members present. The start was delayed allowing additional time for attendees to log in to the hearing. The process and instructions for the webinar were explained by the Host, Leslie Pelch.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**
Additions: None.
Deletions: None.
3. **Public Comment:** (Not related to agenda items) None.
4. **Presentation of the Good Citizen of the Year Award:** Amy Grover presented the 2021 Good Citizen of the Year Award to Leslie Pelch, with thanks and appreciation to Leslie for her many years of volunteerism, service to, and support of, our community.
5. **Select Board Presentation on Articles 01-06:** Mica Cassara presented the PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the BSB. PowerPoint slides are included with these minutes in the Town Office and posted along with these minutes on the town website.
 - Review and Discuss Article 01: Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$1,110,774 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town?
 - Thanks expressed by Jen Dudley-Gaillard to town officers and staff for their hard work drafting the FY 21-22 budget.
 - Review and Discuss Article 02: Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay the real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2021; November 15, 2021; February 15, 2022; and May 16, 2022?
 - No comments/questions.
 - Review and Discuss Article 03: Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support the

Conservation Fund?

- Leslie Pelch noted information provided by Amy Ludwin, Conservation Commission Chair, on how funds have been used in the past, (a Winooski River Floodplain Forest Inventory, town match contribution for a Winooski River canoe access on Duxbury Road, expansion of the PPCS Notch Road parking lot, a boundary survey of the PPCA), and that the Conservation Commission stretches project funding dollars with grants, the use of volunteers and partnerships, and that possible upcoming projects that may leverage Conservation Fund money include a reroute of the Libby's Look trail, increased parking at the Stage Road PPCA access, and the preservation of Wheeler Field in West Bolton.
- Amy Ludwin encouraged voters to support this article.
- Jen Dudley-Gaillard encouraged voters to support this article noting that it had a small impact individually, and a large impact together.
- Review and Discuss Article 04: Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of a "Rescue Vehicle" (for the transport of rescue equipment) for the Bolton Fire Department, price not to exceed \$150,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?
 - No comments/questions.
- Review and Discuss Article 05: Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of a Tandem Dump Truck for the Bolton Highway Department, price not to exceed \$150,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?
 - Mica Cassara noted the tandem is a larger vehicle capable of carrying a larger winter sand load than the current truck. The current truck does not have the carrying capacity to sand the Notch/Stage/Mill Brook Road plow route in one trip and requires two trips to complete the route. The tandem would reduce that to one trip to complete the entire route and addressed safety concerns and reduction of labor costs.
- Review and Discuss Article 06: To elect all town officers as required by law.
 - Henry Corse introduced himself as running for the three-year BSB seat, and noted his profile was available in the February Bolton Gazette and on Front Porch Forum, and that he welcomed questions/conversation via email.
 - Jen Dudley Gaillard asked if the other 2 BSB candidates were present and wished to speak, and thanked Henry Corse for introducing himself.
 - Leslie Pelch noted that Kyle Guyette and Dominic Ayer were not present.

Final comments:

- Josh Coffee noted his thanks and that he looked forward to voting.
- Mica Cassara noted that voting on all warned articles would take place on March 2, 2021, at Smilie School from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Leslie Pelch noted that voting 100% by Australian ballot was a temporary, it was a one year accommodation made by the state due to COVID-19 and was not permanent.
- Amy Grover confirmed Leslie Pelch's comments on Australian ballot voting and added that the voters would need to vote/approve shifting to Australian ballot permanently; this was a COVID-19 accommodation for 2021 Town Meeting only.
- Leslie Pelch asked if any other candidate wished to speak. There were no additional speakers.
- Amy Grover noted that there was no candidate for Town Constable on the ballot, that someone could win via write in votes, that if no one was elected, the BSB would

- probably need to appoint a Constable, and that she would need to check the statute with respect to those requirements.
6. **Motion to Adjourn Hearing:** Lynda DesLauriers made the motion “to adjourn the hearing.” Wendy Hoffman seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) at 6:45 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on March 1, 2021.