

Board of Selectmen
January 23, 2020

Stanley Wysocki
Robert Czekanski
Jonathan Keep
Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary



Mr. Wysocki called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

George Robertson, Eagle Scout appeared before the Board to present his Eagle Scout service project proposal to repair and refurbish the Bolton Town Clock. Jeff Nichols and J. Duncan Robertson were also in attendance. The project includes refacing and fixing the mechanism on the inside of the clock. The pendulum is not working as it only swings for an hour before stopping. They will clean it and oil it. If there is something else that needs to be done, there is money in the budget for a clock smith. The plan for the faces is to hire a building instructor to teach a gilding process. They will use 24-carat-gold leaf as is the most resistant to weather. The Board commended Mr. Robertson on his project proposal and presentation.

Mr. Nichols noted that historically there was a line item in the budget for clock winding and cleaning. The winding line went away 7-10 years ago. Mr. Robertson explained that resident Bob Johnson has a mechanism that will automate the winding.

J. Duncan Robertson noted that the Boy Scouts of America has insurance covering scouts while they are working on their project. Mr. Lowe commented that if the Board wished to sign an indemnification agreement with the Boy Scouts, he had one prepared.

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted unanimously to approve George Robertson's Eagle Scout project to repair and reface the clock Tower at First Parish Church.

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted unanimously to sign the indemnification agreement.

J. Duncan Robertson, the Charter Organization Representative signed on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. George Robertson made a request to the Board for a Project Beneficiary Representative to receive progress reports on the project.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted unanimously to make the Town Administrator the Beneficiary Representative for the project.

APPOINTMENTS

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted unanimously to appoint Rob Frieswick as an alternate to the Mosquito Response Committee.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted unanimously to appoint Emily Winner to the Agricultural Commission.

Animal Control Officer Designation

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted unanimously to designate Susan Latham and Phyllis Tower as Animal Inspectors for the Town of Bolton to perform the duties described in M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151 for the year 2020.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

MA Works Project Update-Mr. Lowe reported progress regarding the proposed Truck Exclusion. He will be attending a future Berlin Selectmen's meeting and a Clinton Traffic Committee meeting.

Minuteman- Budget flat this year which may trend downwards slightly. Next Friday there will be a budget meeting so Mr. Lowe will bring more news to the next meeting. There was a waitlist for the current year and they have over 300 applications for the next school year. The school was built for over 700 students.

3rd School Committee Rep-

The Chair of the School Committee declined the Selectmen's request to add the item to the January 15th. Mr. Lowe has been told it will appear on the next agenda.

Discussion on Town Hall Hours

Plan is that with the exception of the Building Inspector the Town Hall will no longer be open on Tuesday nights. The Board of Assessors hired a new Assistant Assessor with hours set at 7:30am – 3:30pm Monday through Thursday which would leave the Town Clerk's Office as the only office assessible to the public for evening hours. With the increase in automation and the very small numbers (0-3) per night the proposal is to have a locked drop box. Town Clerk will make arrangements to meet with anyone who needs services outside office hours. She has been forwarding her calls on Tuesday evenings to her cell phone and has received 0 calls in January. Board had no issues. Mr. Czekanski requested that the change be well publicized.

MVP Grant- Mr. Lowe announced that we have been invited to attend the MVP Grant award program on February 5, 2020. Rebecca Longvall has been pursuing the MVP Grant

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

Public Service Announcement(s)

Chairman Wysocki reminded everyone that the main area of funding for the Boy Scouts is deposit returns on bottles and cans recycled at the red barn.

Mr. Wysocki announced his plan to run again for Selectmen. He asked for residents to put their faith in him once again for another three years. There is a lot more to be done.

Proposal to pursue ALS (Chief Legendre)

Chief Legendre appeared before the Board to present a plan to bring Advanced Life Support (ALS) The Chief explained that they are proposing Advanced Life Support Care. Currently Bolton operates an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) level ambulance service. Town is looking to advance to paramedic level to enhance service to the Town. We are currently using outside agencies. In December we were given 48-hours-notice from the provider Woods Ambulance that they were relocating to Gardener increasing the response time to our Town. Chief Legendre wants to use a vehicle already owned by the Town as the "fly-car". The "fly-car" would not be used to transport patients, only medical personnel. The Board reviewed materials including a broad overview of the skills that would be at both level. The Chief noted that the department has steadily been adding skills to our staff as they come out. Town would need to increase our license for medications. Chief believes it is time to review our fees and is considering bundled bills. Last time it was done was 2016.

Costs would include new equipment including a cardiac monitor, salaries for 1 paramedic 12 hours/day 365 days/year, ALS license, Controlled Substance License, Uniforms and Training. The profile of existing staff includes 5 paramedics. It will be a progression to get to the 24-hour coverage. The plan is to see what the returns are before going forward. We have money currently built into the budget to pay outside vendors. The other towns which were serviced by Woods are Harvard, Lancaster, Berlin and the prison in Shirley. The Chief would like to make it primarily for Bolton, but we can service our neighbors if we are able. 3-5 calls a day once we better understand the day-to-day needs for Bolton. We are not overtaxing that yet. The Chief is exploring our eligibility for regionalization support from the state. Mr. Lowe commended the Chief's initiative in evaluating this as a response to events that were beyond our control. He also recognized the Board of Selectmen for recognizing the need to hire a full time Fire Chief. Mr. Czekanski noted that based on the current run rate, this project will pay for itself in a year and it is not at all dependent of us sharing this resource with other towns. The Board thanked the Chief for his initiative and research.

The Chief requested a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen.

Czekanski moved to send a letter to EMS supporting the effort of establishing ALS in Bolton. Keep seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Czekanski moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of support to EMS. Keep seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Liaison to School Committee

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted 2-1 to appoint Town Administrator as a liaison to the school committee. Mr. Czekanski was opposed.

Payroll/Warrants

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted unanimously to approve Bills/Payroll warrants: W20-15 & W20-15A.

No minutes.

Executive Session

On a motion made Czekanski the Board voted by Roll Call 3-0 (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes) to enter executive session at 7:49 pm pursuant to MGL c. 30A, §21(a)3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Teamster's Union, Local No. 170 if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Board of Selectmen and the chair so declares. The Board will return to open session.

Board returned to open session by roll call vote at 7:51 pm.

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted unanimously to sign the contract with the Teamster's Union effective July 1st, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

Board adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Jacobsen.