

Select Board
October 27, 2022
Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Stanley Wysocki
Robert Czekanski
Not Present: Emily Winner

Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

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

NRSD FY24 BUDGET PLANNING

Bolton School Committee Representatives Amy Cohen, Mike Horesh, Amy Vessels attended for a discussion on FY24 Budget Planning. Mr. Wysocki had shared some questions in advance of the meeting. Mr. Wysocki commented that the Board would like to see the School Committee taking a more active role in budget planning. A budget planning workshop is scheduled for January 18th according to the FY24 Budget Timeline furnished by Mr. Horesh to the Board. The Board would like the Committee to identify areas where the school district can streamline, not at the expense of educational excellence.

Mr. Czekanski added that in FY23, all available increases in revenue weren't enough to cover the district assessment for the Town of Bolton. The Town turned down services to make the budget work. Bolton cannot keep sustaining those types of increases.

Mr. Wysocki noted that the school buses at the high school are one area to explore for savings.

Mr. Horesh respectfully disagreed that the public does not have transparency into the budget process and highlighted the opportunities that the public has to learn about the budget and budget process. The budget warrant subcommittee provides an opportunity for a deeper dive into the budgets. Mr. Horesh invited the Board and public to attend and educate themselves. Mr. Horesh went on to clarify that while the bus line is quite large, we are reimbursed at 85% for those services.

Ms. Cohen added that they did reduce the buses by 3 this year as they found efficiencies. Ms. Cohen also commented that the warrant subcommittee does a lot of the work and that the timeline is dictated by when the towns receive numbers from the state. Ms. Cohen added that the Advisory Committee Chair has been attending the meetings and would be a valuable source of information.

Mr. Lowe commented that the three town administrators of the district towns have resumed meeting on a monthly basis and he appreciates that Superintendent Downing picks up the phone when he has a question. The inquiries about the budget from residents is down. Mr. Horesh speculated it is due to the increased level of communication from the superintendent.

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL ON AGING (COA)

Council on Aging Director Lisa D'Eon and Chair Panny Gerken, and members Alice Roemer, Janet Smith, Tom Byron and Barbara Brown attended and provided an update on the past year and highlighted plans for the coming year. Ms. D'Eon continues to put out events and programs and organize trips to work with people to get them out of the house. The COA has returned to the senior center. The Counsel works with the people most at need along with their relatives for long term care options and increased access to services and healthy foods. They are hoping to get a food pantry at the Senior Center.

Boston Post Cane-Ms. D'Eon invited the Board to attend the Senior Connections luncheon on Tuesday, November 15th at 11:00 am during which the Boston Post Cane will be awarded to Helen Weaver as the oldest citizen in Bolton. Her husband Charlie Weaver will be accepting the cane on her behalf.

Mr. Lowe gave a strong praise of the work that both Lisa D'Eon and Heather Goodsell do for the community.

TRANSFER STATION CONVERSION

Department of Public Works Director Randy Heglin attended to continue the discussion on converting from a sticker system to a bag system for waste disposal at the transfer station. Mr. Heglin shared the state survey of what other communities are charging.

The Board was in support of a move from stickers to bags. Mr. Czekanski asked for more detail on how the bags will be distributed. The Board commented favorably on switching to bags to deal with the compliance issues. Bags will be sold to residents of Bolton only. The stickers can be used until residents deplete their inventory. Mr. Heglin will order a supply of bags and recommended that we start at the beginning of the year.

Resident Tom Guyer questioned the driver of the change and commented that it will be more difficult for planning of residents to have a storage of bags on hand and asked if the transfer station attendants will need to become the compliance officers. Compliance was identified as the driver. Confrontation can be avoided by taking the license plate number.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to authorize the Department of Public Works Director to initiate a transfer from stickers to bags at the transfer station. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Mr. Heglin announced that effective November 1st, the state of Massachusetts is changing how the transfer station handles textiles requiring that they recycled. Mr. Heglin asked that residents use the collection bins for donating textiles and to please refrain from bringing mattresses that are stained or contaminated with bedbugs.

PUBLIC WAYS SAFETY COMMITTEE (PWSC) RECOMMENDATION

The Board considered a recommendation from the PWSC for a three-way stop at South Bolton and Spectacle Hill Roads originally requested by Stan Smith. PWSC member Steve McKeown was in attendance. The PWSC received feedback from public safety and department of public works and reviewed the traffic engineering study created by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Heglin is not an advocate for installation of stop signs for traffic control in general but had no objection to the signs at this location. Mr. Heglin suggested the Board consider a trial period.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to do a 180-day trial for a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Spectacle Hill and South Bolton Roads. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

FILM LICENSE

Eric Betti of Hunters & Fugitives LLC, was in attendance to request permission for a Film License for the production "The Shade" to film in Bolton from 10/31/22 to 11/03/22. The request includes the use of town property for 3-days and Mr. Betti has already made payment for the property use fee. The request has received feedback and approvals from Police, Fire, DPW, and Parks and Recreation. Eric gave a history of the productions company, Red Whiskey Cinema. They have a lot of professionals that have come together to work on this film. Mr. Betti is originally from Hudson and is excited to be working in Bolton. Mr. Betti is thankful to the DPW workers, the owner of Classic Pizza, resident Mark Caisse and others who have been very welcoming.

Mr. Betti shared a detailed slide presentation on the production which included an aerial map of filming, staging parking and catering. The only change from the original submission was Mr. Betti's request to park at Forbush field parking lot rather than Memorial Field parking. Mr. Guyer was present representing Bolton Youth Soccer. It would not conflict with soccer usage of the parking lot. Mr. Heglin further offered parking at the transfer station driveway. Mr. Betti thanked the Town for the very easy to use online permitting system.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the commercial filming permit for Eric Betti of Hunters and Fugitives LLC for the production The Shade from 10/31/22-11/3/22. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT-

Board considered the service project of scout with Troup 1 and a Nashoba Regional High School. Milan Siano who came to Parks and Recreation offering to resurface the baseball field at Memorial field after a lack of maintenance to the field during the pandemic. Mr. Siano worked with Bolton Youth Baseball, the Conservation Commission, Nashoba Regional School District and, Department of Public Works along with other entities lending service, supplies or advice for the project. The project will be done in three weekends to cut the field, bring in materials, and level the field. The removed material is going on a private landowner's property. Mr. Lowe advised that it cannot be dumped in a wetland area or buffer zone. The Town will check with insurance agent to see if waivers should be required by applicants. Mr. Heglin asked that the clay be contained to the best extent possible and not spread around too much as clay can get slippery when it is wet.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the service project for the resurfacing of the baseball diamond as requested by Milan Siano. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Minuteman Update-Mr. Lowe attended a managers meeting last week with Kathleen Dawson, superintendent of the Minuteman Regional Technical School in which all parties shared information on budget pressures each party is under. New School Committee member Erika Elzey was in attendance at the meeting. There was some discussion of expanding to additional member towns to lower the assessments. More analysis needs to be done in addition to a Town Meeting vote. There will be quarterly meetings.

Update on Feasibility of Florence Sawyer School 2nd Egress-Mr. Lowe provided an update on his FY23 goal. There are two options, to channel traffic toward Wattaquodock or toward Berlin Road. Mr. Lowe's focus has been on an egress toward Berlin Road.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

There were no Public Service Announcements.

Update on School Building Project-Robert Czekanski explained that the option selected was 4D to place the new high school to the west of the existing high school to not affect the turf field. It will affect the baseball field. It is a preliminary decision and not locked in. It will not affect the gas pipeline. Next step is to prepare documentation for the Massachusetts School Building Authority who is subsidizing the feasibility study. We should hear back by early January. A special town meeting is expected next fall.

Appointment

The appointment is due to a notice of interest following an advertisement for board and committee vacancies.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to appoint Craig Johnson to the Economic Development Committee. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Establish a One-Day All Alcohol For-Profit License Fee

Mr. Lowe reminded the Board that this item was from a previous meeting after Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner informed him that the Town may at their discretion issue a license to a for profit entity for the LIV event but the Town did not have an appropriate fee schedule in place. The Board reviewed recommendations for fee schedule based on event capacity for one day special permit all alcohol licenses for for-profit businesses. The recommendations were for

Event Capacity (1-250)

\$100/day

Event Capacity (251-999)	\$200/day
Event Capacity (1,000-2,499)	\$500/day
Event Capacity (2,500+)	\$2,000/day

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the fee schedule as presented. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Future Agenda Items Discussion-Mr. Wysocki asked that the Board have a follow up meeting to codify the expectations for the school committee in the budget review process.

Future Meeting Dates-The Board reviewed the future Select Board meeting dates for January, 12th, January 26th, February 16th, March 2nd, March 16th, March 30th, April 13th, April 27th and May 11th.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the future meeting dates as presented. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Approve Bills/Payroll warrants W23-8 & W23-8A

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the bills/payroll warrants W23-8 & W23-8A. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Minutes

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the minutes of September 29th, 2022 and October 13th, 2022. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Executive Session

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call at 9:22pm to unanimously to enter executive session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, §21(a)3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with The Teamster's Union, Local 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 and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, S.23B purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to impact bargaining with police union, Local 286 IUPA,AFL-CIO, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position and to approve Executive Session Minutes. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

The Board returned from Executive session at 9:37pm.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted by roll call unanimously to adjourn at 9:37pm. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Jacobsen

**All attendees participated remotely via Zoom Remote Conferencing pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.*