

Select Board
December 14th, 2023
Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Robert Czekanski, Chair
Stanley Wysocki
Brian Boyle

Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Administrative Assistant

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Czekanski opened the public hearing of the Select Board on the petition of National Grid to install three poles on Meadow Road to service three new homes. Abutters were notified. Javier Morales of National Grid was in attendance.

Tree Warden Mark Caisse was in attendance and reported on the Planning Board's vote to remove 12 trees to allow this pole to happen. There is a large impact to the road, but this was the least impactful plan to allow power to these homes. Mr. Caisse hopes that the Town has learned a lesson from this experience when adjacent lots are being sold separately in the future. It has made a pretty bad scar on a scenic road in Town. Meadow Road resident Ken Troup was in attendance and agreed with Mr. Caisse's opinions.

Mr. Czekanski closed the hearing.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to install three (3) jointly-owned pole on Meadow Road beginning at a point approximately 400 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Long Hill Road and continuing approximately 200 feet in a northeast direction. Installing three (3) new Poles #14, 15 and 16 along Meadow Road to service 3 new homes. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

SIGN

The Board heard a request from Luis Berdecia to install a 49" X 38" sign on building, a 3' X4' window decal and a 26" barber pole by rear entrance at The Bolton Barber Shop located at 716 Main Street. The Board reviewed images of the signs. The barber pole will be placed in the front of the building and is a standard size.

Luis Berdecia, "Tony" introduced himself and the business to the Board and the Board welcomed the new business owner to Town.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to install the signs as requested. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

BOLTON ACCESS TV

The Board heard a request from Nicki McGachey for release of funds for operating expenses and Capital funds. Ms. McGachey updated the Board on recent programming.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to release \$36,929.96 including \$24,929.96 for operating expenses and \$12,000 for Capital funds. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ken Troup of the Cable Advisory Committee appeared before the Board with an update on the process and requested approval of the Ascertainment Report to be sent to Comcast for consideration in contract negotiations with the Town of Bolton. Mr. Troup is interested to learn how Comcast sees the future landscape with declining usership. The ten-year contract comes due in July. The funding of Bolton Access

TV comes from Comcast dues. The contract applies only to the cable TV portion and not the internet and streaming portions. Mr. Boyle thanked the committee for their work on the report.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the Ascertainment Report as presented and authorized the Town to send the report to Comcast for consideration in contract negotiations. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

TREE REMOVAL

Craig Bovaird was in attendance to request permission to remove trees on Town property near **711-713 Main Street**. Mr. Bovaird is renovating the property and has concerns that the trees which are in poor health will fall on the antique barn that he plans to relocate to the property to replace the previously existing barn that was demolished due to condemnation by the building inspector. Tree Warden Mark Caisse reported that the Conservation Commission approved the removal of the trees. Mr. Caisse also noted that the septic plan shows that trees #5 and #6 as depicted in the submitted sketch drawn by Marquis Tree Service, in addition to #1 which has already fallen, are on the 711-713 Main Street property. The remaining five trees are on Town property. Conservation Commission has approved six of the eight trees. Mr. Caisse reported that the trees #7 and #8 show signs of a root issue and sit on a mound of dirt with water flowing on two sides. Mr. Caisse reported that the trees should come down.

Mr. Bovaird was willing to pay his fair share of the removal of the trees even if they sit on Town land. Mr. Bovaird is planning to plant trees to enhance the look of the property. Mr. Caisse suggested that the Town pay for tree #8 as it is not endangering the barn

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the removal of trees at 711-713 Main Street inclusive of trees #1-#6 to be taken down and paid for by the applicant, tree #7, pending approval by the Conservation Commission to be taken down and paid for by the Town, and #8, pending approval by the Conservation Commission to be taken down and paid for by the applicant. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Update on MVP Project

Mr. Lowe is working on finding a firm to quote on design work. The State has been very wonderful to work with and have been patient with the Town in Ms. Bucciaglia's absence.

Update on Budget and Capital Process

All budget requests have come in as well as all of the capital requests with the exception of the school district which is expected soon. The current sum total of requests is \$545,696. The Finance Committee met and the numbers are daunting but the Town will work through them. Mr. Wysocki, the Select Board representative on the Finance Committee concurred.

Space Needs Discussion

Mr. Lowe reported on the challenges with the space at Town Hall. We were able to add a new staff member by creating an office sharing situation. There have been multiple leaks in the building which have exposed issues including vines growing in the walls and black mold. A second leak required the Town Hall to close for an afternoon as water was coming through the ceilings. Mr. Lowe commented on space issues in the Council on Aging and Department of Public Works as well. Mr. Boyle noted that the Master Plan Steering Committee is also sensitive to the space needs. Mr. Czekanski recommended that we get an estimate for how much it would cost to get a quote for looking at space needs.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to authorize the Town Administrator to gather information and proposals for an outside organization to look at the space needs for the Town Hall and DPW office space and potential space for a senior and/or community center . (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Second Means of Egress at Florence Sawyer School Update

Bolton did not receive the Department of Transportation federal grant. They awarded 13 grants for a total of \$13.3M out of 127 applications requesting \$357M.

Concept of Senior Tax Relief for School Building Debt

In response to the question about what the Town can do to bring tax relief to seniors in light of the tax burden of the new high school. Mr. Lowe discussed the concept of a senior tax relief program that the Town of Stow is currently working on. Mr. Lowe wanted to get a sense of the level of interest of the Board. The process would require a Town Meeting Vote and a Home Rule Petition.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Public Service Announcements

Mr. Wysocki reminded the public to bring bottles and cans to the red barn and to use the orange and green bags. Any issues should be brought to the attention of the Select Board.

Future Agenda Items Discussion

There were none.

Liquor License Renewal

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the 2024 liquor license renewals contingent upon receipt of documentation and completion of inspections as listed. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Restaurant-All Alcoholic Beverages

Bolton Baba LLC- 544 Wattaquaddock Hill Road

Great Brook Farms, Inc., 356 Main Street

Restaurant-Beer and Wine

Bolton Bean Inc- 626 Main Street

Package Store Licenses-All Alcoholic Beverages

Bolton Country Cupboard Inc., 476 Main Street, Package Store All Alcoholic Beverages

Daigneault's Liquor Inc., 25 Forbush Mill Road

Farmer Series Pouring Permit-19H for Distilled Spirits, Wines and Malts

Nashoba Valley Spirits Ltd, 92-100 Wattaquaddock Hill Road

Club License-All Alcoholic Beverages

The International Beverage Service Company LLC-159 Ballville Road

Common Victualer License Renewal

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the 2024 Common Victualer Licenses as listed. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Bolton Baba LLC- 544 Wattaquaddock Hill Road

Great Brook Farms, Inc., 356 Main Street

Bolton Bean Inc- 626 Main Street

Nashoba Valley Spirits Ltd, 92-100 Wattaquaddock Hill Road

The International Beverage Service Company LLC-159 Ballville Road

Subway, 476 Main Street

Giulio Inc. DBA Classic Pizza III, 1076 Main Street

Dunkin Donuts, 476 Main Street
Bolton Spring Farm, 159 Main Street
Davis Farm DBA Bolton Orchards
Colonial Candies, 47 Sugar Road

Class II License Renewal

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the 2024 Class II license as listed. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Castro Auto Repair 496 South Bolton /333 Central St., Hudson- 544 Wattaquadock Hill Road

Nashoba Regional School Committee Budget and Warrant Update

Mr. Boyle reported on attending the monthly meetings and shared links to the calendar: (https://docs.google.com/document/d/16BMpQqWvc9O83S2n_NMsOyrdPBCVP1slaRoRiPF0Lns/edit?pli=1) and the FY capital debt assessment:

(https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3447/NRSD/3817077/FY25_Capital_Debt_Assessment.r.pdf)

And the current capital 5-year plan:

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16_ZDwslhXI9BRdbR_CySCEUIDwqK9VUh/edit#gid=312909521)

Mr. Wysocki had questions about how the school committee gets a detailed understanding of the budget and scrub it.

Mr. Boyle explained that the individual members of the committee reach out to the departments when they require more information. Mr. Boyle stated that the members of the budget and warrant committee are acting in good faith and take their responsibilities seriously.

Gift Acceptance

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to accept the donations of wreaths to the Town from donors as listed amounting to \$1,290. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Tuck and Tuck Architects, 626 Main Street LLC, Bolton Global Capital, Animal Adventures, Bolton Yoga 626 Studio, Kelleher Williams, MJT Group, Foster Landscape and Construction and Building, Le Petit Studio, Balewicz Homes, Murphy Insurance, Jon Palaima Masonry, and Bolton Bean.

Town Administrator Search

Mr. Lowe announced receipt of interest from Panny Gerken and Lorraine Romasco to serve as residents on the committee and from Michael Murphy of Murphy Insurance to serve as a business owner and asked the Board to consider those appointments to the committee.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to appoint Panny Gerken, Lorraine Romasco and Michael Murphy to serve on the Town Administrator Search Committee. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Insurance Advisory Committee

The committee members brought forward from the unions are:

Retiree- David Farrell

DPW-Nathan Berry, Scott Babineau, and Don Baum

Police-Jason Puri, MaryAnn Kinirey and Kim Barry

Fire-Steve Kochis

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to appoint the slate of candidates as presented. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Bills/Payroll Warrant

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the bills/payroll warrant 24-11 and 24-11A. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Minutes

There were none.

Executive Session-Police Union Side Letter of Agreement

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted at 7:29 pm by roll call 3-0 to enter executive session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, §21(a) 3

- **to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with The Police Union, Local 170 if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Select Board and the chair so declares**
- **to approve Executive Session Minutes. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)**

The Board returned to regular session at 7:49.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to adjourn approve and authorize the Town Administrator to execute the side letter of agreement between the Town of Bolton and The Police Union, Local 170 pm. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki)

On a motion made by Boyle and seconded by Czekanski the Select Board voted by roll call 3-0 to adjourn at 7:54 pm. (Czekanski-yes, Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.