

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday, September 08, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall & Zoom Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

	ROSTER	IN-PERSON	ZOOM	ABSENT
FIRST SELECTMAN:	Rodney Fournier	X		
SELECTMEN:	Bryce Aaronson	X		
	Mather Clarke	X		
	David Cowles	X		
	Robert DePietro		X	
	Gwen Marrion	X		
	Tim Sadler	X		

STAFF:	James Rupert, Town Administrator
	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary

1.0 Call to Order:

First Selectman Rodney Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2.0 Public Comment:

Bryce Aaronson inquired if other land use boards and commissions were invited to the Land Use meeting scheduled for November 17, 2026. Other boards and commissions of noteworthy mention, not currently invited, included the Bolton Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

3.0 Appointments/Resignations: None.

4.0 Correspondence:

a. Kane McLean – 27 Hanover Farms Road

Opposed the ongoing parties held at 27 Hanover Farms Road.

b. Mark Ashwell – 27 Hanover Farms Road

Opposed the ongoing parties held at 27 Hanover Farms Road.

c. Jeanne Aldrich – 27 Hanover Farms Road

Opposed the ongoing parties held at 27 Hanover Farms Road.

Discussion ensued among the BOS regarding current and proposed resolutions options:

- A Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) appeals hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM, Bolton High School, Commons Area, to address these complaints.
- Discussion on whether public comment would be allowed at the hearing.
- The appeals hearing centers on whether the parties constitute a commercial enterprise in a residential zone.
- The Bolton town attorney will be present; the zoning enforcement officer will need to justify actions taken, i.e. cease and desist.
- Discussion ensued about the town's ability to enforce noise/nuisance ordinances, as well as the effectiveness and clarity of current ordinances and their enforcement.

5.0 New Business:

a. Lowering the Threshold for purchase Orders

- **Current Policy:**
 - \$0–\$200: Invoice only to finance department.
 - \$200–\$700: Purchase order required, signed by department head.
 - Over \$700: Additional approvals required.
- **Proposed Changes:**
 - Consider lowering thresholds in April or upon budget freeze to slow spending and better manage year-end rollovers (notably, \$800,000 rolled over last year).
 - Board agreed to research practices in similar towns and revisit the topic at a future meeting, possibly after Finance Committee input.
 - Emphasis on aligning purchase order thresholds with budget freezes to control spending.

b. State Police Costs

State Police Cost Increase: A 7.5% fringe cost increase for resident state troopers has strained the police budget, adding \$15,400 unbudgeted expense, prompting Town Administrator James Rupert to reach out to CROCG (Capitol Region Council of Governments) to assist in identifying potential cost sharing of police services with other neighboring communities.

- **Exploring Alternatives:**
 - New legislation allows towns to share police resources.
 - Advocacy with state officials was suggested to address the impact of late and unanticipated cost increases.

c. Consider and Act on Re-Appointing R. Morra to E.H.H.D. Board as an Alternate.

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to TABLE** the re-appointment until September 22, 2026, BOS meeting. Selectman B. Aaronson **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0**

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

6.0 Old Business: None.

7.0 Consider and Act on A/P

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** FY25-26 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$2,050.71. Selectman R. DePietro **SECONDED;**

Discussions:

- Overtime for state police is billed separately and may arrive months after the service.

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to APPROVE** FY26-27 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$207,212.81. Selectman B. Aaronson **SECONDED;**

Discussions:

Selectwoman G. Marrion, Page 1-2, Fire Department Expenditures.

- Discussion on fire department payments:
 - \$31,827 paid for recruitment/retention incentives, timing and basis questioned (likely paid for previous years' service).

Selectwoman G. Marrion, Page 7, Fire Department Repairs.

- \$32,663.46 for fire truck repairs, covered by insurance; deductible noted separately.
- Questions raised about tracking fire equipment maintenance costs for better oversight.
- Town Administrator J. Rupert stated that the fire department tracks several expenditures.

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

8.0 Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:

No action required by the BOS as transfers were observed as being under the \$2000.00 threshold for approval. Budget transfers for this meeting are an informational notice to the BOS in the amount of \$500.

9.0 Executive Session – Personnel Matters:

Selectwoman G. Marrion MOVED to START the Executive Session at 6:43 PM and invite Town Administrator James Rupert to the session. Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED;**

MOTION CARRIED; 7:0:0

Yea	Fournier, Aaronson, Clarke, Cowles, DePietro, Marrion, Sadler
Nay	0
Abstain	0

Start Executive Session: **6:43 PM**

End Executive Session: **X:XX PM**

10.0 Adjourn:

Consensus **to ADJOURN** the meeting at **X:XX PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo, Recording Clerk

Andrea Vassallo

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.

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