

TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING with A/P
Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 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
	Stephanie Smigala, Interim Finance Director
	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary

1.0 Call to Order:

First Selectman Rodney Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 Public Comment: None.

3.0 Appointments/Resignations:

a. Reappoint R. Morra as an Alternate to the EHHD Board (3Year Appt.)

Consensus to appoint R. Morra as an Alternate for another 3 year appointment to the EHHD Board.

MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0

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

b. Resignation – D. Neil – Library Board

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to ACCEPT** the resignation of D. Neil from the Library Board and thanked for their service. Selectman D. Cowles **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0**

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

4.0 Bolton Preservation Council:

a. Possibly Consider and Act on Eagle Scout Deterra Pouch Presentation

Nathan Holberg, member of the **Bolton Youth Prevention Council**, an affiliate organization under the Governor's Prevention Partnership presented to the BOS the "Prevention Starts with You" campaign. The campaign features the Deterra Prevention Pouch which encourages practical, discrete, and safe drug disposal by removing perceived stigmas and barriers, as well as preventing the accidental overdose of people, pets, and safeguards the environment by reducing the disposal of medication through storm and domestic sewer systems.

Members of the Governor's Prevention Partnership presented that the Deterra Prevention Pouch is part of the "Prevention Starts with You" campaign funded by settlement money awarded from pharmaceutical drug companies:

- Opioid Settlement Funds (settlement money) are available annually for Connecticut communities.
- Awarded annually since approximately 2022.
- The "Prevention Starts with You" campaign is approximately \$23,000 and includes:
 - ~2000 Prevention Pouches mailed to all Bolton residents to encourage the safe dispose of prescription medications.
 - An additional ~400 pouches distributed to the municipality to have on hand for in-person distribution.
 - As well as informational mailers to local households providing additional resources.

The Town of Bolton has:

- More than \$40K in a contingency fund set aside for medication disposal prevention and public outreach initiatives and has not spent any money to-date.
- Been in conversations with Eastern Highlands Health District regarding a regional approach towards prevention strategies.
- Has existing medical lock boxes located throughout town.

5.0 Possibly Consider and Act on EHHD Discussion on Regional Use of Opioid Funding:

Ande Bloom, Senior Project Specialist, Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD).

Presented strategies for municipal member communities within the health district to coordinate and share outreach and prevention resources. Opioid issues are recognized being prevalent in older demographics.

EHHD offers a \$11K contract to collaborate with any member community, i.e. Bolton Prevention Council, tabling local municipal events, stocking Naloxone in public AED locations, monitor and report opioid related population data, develop and implement a community awareness campaign, and coordinate outreach activities with other participating member towns. Funds come from the Opioid Settlement Funds and are not taxpayer monies.

Health professionals from Amplify, which partners with the Regional Behavioral Prevention Council, stated that federal funding is slated to end in FY2027 and suggested that the Opioid Settlement Funds may be considered offset costs and initiatives to support the Bolton Prevention Council.

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to APPROVE** to fund the “Prevention Starts with You” campaign in the amount of \$23K. Selectwoman G. Marrion **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0**

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

Selectwoman G. Marrion **MOVED to TABLE** the EHHD presentation and further discussion to fund regional initiatives. Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 6:0:0**

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

****First Selectman R. Fournier left at 7:05 PM. Selectwoman G. Marrion assumed meeting chair in his absence. ****

6.0 Correspondence: None.

7.0 New Business:

a. Consider and Act on Approving BOE FY26 Annual Non-Fiduciary Activity Fund Summary to be Carried Forward to FY27:

Selectman D. Cowles **MOVED to TABLE** the discussion until further representation is present from BOE providing more detailed information. Selectman M. Clarke **SECONDED;**

Discussions:

Discussion ensued about the origin of the approval process by the BOS over a BOE non-fiduciary activity fund. Interim Finance Director Stephanie Smigala stated that previous approvals of approximately \$26K occurred annually. Town Administrator James Rupert stated that the review and approval of the activity fund was recommended by the municipal auditor.

MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0

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

b. Consider and Act on BHS Bid Waiver for Heat Pump Fan Motor and Control Board

Replacements:

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to APPROVE** the bid wavier for a heat pump fan motor and control board for BHS. Selectman R. DePietro **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

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

c. Consider and Act on a Request for Qualifications & Proposals for A Bid for Bond Counsel:

Selectman T. Sadler **MOVED to APPROVE** the request for qualifications and proposals for a Bid Bond Counsel. Selectman R. DePietro **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

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

8.0 Old Business: None.

9.0 Consider and Act on A/P:

Selectman M. Clarke **MOVED to APPROVE** accounts payable for FY26-27 in the amount of \$367,860.74. Selectman T. Sadler **SECONDED;**

Discussions:

- **R. DePietro, Page 3, questioned a \$5,390 expense.**
 - Interim Finance Director S. Smigala stated the expense was for services provided by an accounting consultant to review Bolton's financial control systems.
- **R. DePietro, Page 4, questioned the \$253,476 costs associated with the Adaptive Playground.**
 - S. Smigala stated the town is in process of being reimbursed the monies from a previously awarded grant.
- **R. DePietro, Page 8, questioned a \$1,212 expense.**
 - Town Administrator J. Rupert stated the expense is associated with the monthly electronic book downloads from the library.
- **G. Marrion, Page 2, questioned the two (2) recycling refunds.**
 - J. Rupert and S. Smigala stated the refunds are for bulk metal and other waste stream commodities of value.

MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0

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

10.0 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 \$400.

11.0 Adjourn:

T. Sadler **MOVED to ADJOURN** the meeting **at 7:21 PM**. Selectman D. Cowles **SECONDED**.
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

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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