

TOWN OF BOZRAH
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BOZRAH TOWN HALL
August 15, 2023

Item 1: First Selectman Glenn Pianka called a Regular Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at the Bozrah Town Hall on August 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: First Selectman Glenn Pianka, Selectman Bill Ballinger and Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich

2 Members of the Public

Item 2: Public Comments

Ev Brown commented on the town website and the posting of the minutes.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting - July 18, 2023

MOTION 1: J. Tarasevich made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 18, 2023. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Special Meeting - July 27, 2023

MOTION 2: G. Pianka made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on July 27, 2023. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

- c. Special Meeting - August 8, 2023

MOTION 3: J. Tarasevich made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on August 8, 2023. G. Pianka seconded the motion. B. Ballinger abstained.

Vote 2 yes - 1 abstention - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 4: Monthly Reports

- a. Fire Marshal Report - no report

- b. Food Pantry - Attachment 1

- c. Senior Services Coordinator - no report
- d. State Police - Attachment 2

Item 5: Commission Re-Appointments - Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

- a. James Bonanno - Term 09/01/23 - 08/31/25
- b. Steven Coit - Term 09/01/23 - 08/31/25

MOTION 4: B. Ballinger made a motion to approve the reappointments of James Bonanno and Steven Coit to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority for the term 09/01/23 to 08/31/25. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 6: Bozrah Local Traffic Authority

G. Pianka noted an epoxy painted yellow centerline will be installed the length of Bishop Road for the cost of about \$5,300. G. Pianka also noted the relocation of the speed monitoring equipment to Bishop Road.

MOTION 5: B. Ballinger made a motion to install an epoxy painted yellow centerline the length of Bishop Road for the cost of \$5,300. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 7: Gesiak Sub-Division Bond Release

Attachment 3

G. Pianka presented the Board with emails between Town Planner Sam Alexander, Zoning Enforcement Officer Jennifer Lindo and CLA Engineer Bob Russo on the Gesiak request to release the bond covering his home improvement work.

Item 8: Resolution Adopting the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update 2023-2028

Attachment 4

MOTION 6: B. Ballinger made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign and accept the resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan update 2023-2028. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 9: Fire Department Paid Staff

Attachment 5

J. Tarasevich noted Bozrah has the lowest paid per-diem EMT and firefighters in the area at \$19 an hour.
 J. Tarasevich noted average pay for the same position is from \$22- \$25 an hour.

MOTION 7: B. Ballinger made a motion to request approval from the Board of Finance \$7,200 to add to the paid per-diem firefighter and EMT line item increasing the pay to \$21 an hour. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion. G. Pianka noted per-diem firefighter and EMT should at least receive \$22 an hour.
 B. Ballinger and J. Tarasevich withdrew their motion.

MOTION 8 : B. Ballinger made a motion to request approval from the Board of Finance \$10,800 to add to the paid per-diem firefighter and EMT line time increasing the pay to \$22 an hour. J. Tarsevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 10: Such other Business as the Board May Wish to Hear

No other business.

Item 11: First Selectman Updates

- a. Basketball and Pickleball Courts - G. Pianka noted the lines were painted on the basketball court and a net was ordered so it could be converted to a pickleball court.
- b. Commission Vacancies - IWCC, Maples Farm Park - G. Pianka noted there are still vacancies on both commissions.
- c. Maples Farm Park Pavilion - G. Pianka noted that the painting of the pavilion is complete.
- d. Blue Hill and Gager Road Resurfacing - G. Pianka noted both roads are not complete.
- e. Town Meeting August 16, 2023
- f. Town Planner Vacancy and Plan of Action -G. Pianka noted Sam Alexander has resigned from town planner and SECCOG is working to fill the position.
- g. Sale of Fire Department Ladder Completed

Item 12: Public Comment

Ev Brown commented on the soccer field and ARPA money.

Item 13: Adjourn

MOTION 9: B. Ballinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Heather Provost
Recording Secretary

Bozrah Food Pantry July 2023 Monthly Report

The Bozrah Food Pantry (BFP) continues to be well stocked and the schedule of participants submitting requests by Wednesdays and pickups on Thursdays is working well. Requesters are notified by text or phone call when weekly food baskets are ready for pickup.

Food Requests:

The BFP had four weekly food requests from families for pickups prepared and given out. Each pickup is about one week's worth of food for each person. (7 adults 3 children)

Donations:

Molly Lathrop, Robin Parker, Kathy Kutia, Dorothy Lathrop, Janet Cosenza, and several anonymous Bozrah residents dropped food items and donations off at the Town Hall.

BFP Financials:

Purchases with debit card:

- No purchases

Purchases with gift cards:

- Shoprite gift card beginning balance \$0.00
- No purchases
- Ending balance \$0.00

- Stop & Shop gift card beginning balance \$125.10
- \$42.01 (restock items)
- \$25 gift card from Dorothy Lathrop
- \$25 gift card from Janet Cosenza
- Ending balance \$133.09

- Walmart gift card beginning balance \$128.34
- No purchases
- Ending Balance \$128.34

Sincerely,

Tom Ververis (BFP Coordinator)

(Aug 2, 2023)



Lieutenant Adam Litwin #064
 Commanding Officer

Master Sergeant Shawn Mansfield #078
 Executive Officer

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
TROOP K – COLCHESTER

August 2, 2023

Mr. Glenn Pianka
 Bozrah First Selectman
 1 River Road
 Bozrah, CT 06334

Dear Mr. Pianka,

This correspondence is an effort to keep you apprised of the monthly police services occurring within the Town of Bozrah.

During the month of **July 2023**, Troop K Troopers responded to **134** Calls for Service in the Town of Bozrah. Of these Calls for Service the most notable are:

Total Calls for Service	Total Calls This Year	
134	729	
	July	YTD
Accidents	15	34
Criminal Investigations	12	29
Burglaries	0	2
Larcenies	1	1
Non Reportable Matters	81	475
Total Arrests	2	19

Motor Vehicle Enforcement:	July	YTD
Total Traffic Stops	35	185
Onsite DUI's	0	1
Arrests	0	2
Misdemeanor Summons	0	7
Infractions	24	92
Written Warnings	3	35
Verbal Warnings	8	47

Respectfully,

LT Adam Litwin #064
 Lieutenant Adam Litwin #064
 Commanding Officer
 Connecticut State Police – Troop K

15a Old Hartford Road
 Colchester, CT 06415
 Phone: (860) 465-5400
 Fax: (860) 465-5450

Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka

GESIAK

From: Sam Alexander <salexander@seccog.org>
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 8:38 AM
To: Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka
Cc: Bob Russo; Jennifer Lindo
Subject: FW: Performance bond release South Road

Hi, Glenn.

David Gesiak will be submitting a request to release the bond covering his Public Improvement work on South Road (clearing and re-grading the shoulder, rebuilding the stone wall, and constructing a leak-off from the road. This was required by the Town Road Ordinance, and should have action by both BOS and PZC.

PZC meets next on 8/10 and I can put it on their agenda.

When is the next BOS meeting?

In the time interceding, I would suggest that yourself and DPW crew take a look at the site to make sure it is satisfactory. You may also wish to hold off on a release until the land is quit claimed over to the town. That wasn't specifically spelled out in the approval conditions, but your choice.

From: Sam Alexander
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 8:33 AM
To: Jennifer Lindo <jlindo@seccog.org>; Bob Russo <brusso@claengineers.com>
Subject: RE: Performance bond release South Road

So it sounds like there are 3 bonds they would like released.

The public improvement bond: I re-read the Road Ordinance and it's not clear who releases this (BOS or PZC). Maybe best to have both do it. I can loop in Glenn. Bob's inspection would cover the ES controls associated with this, and probably the leak-off area, making sure there is no down-grade issue leading to the brook. Glenn and DPW would need to inspect to make sure it looks OK from a public works perspective.

Two ES Bonds: These were conditions of the wetlands approval, so I can add them to the agenda. PZC does not need action IMO.

From: Jennifer Lindo <jlindo@seccog.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 5:03 PM
To: Sam Alexander <salexander@seccog.org>; Bob Russo <brusso@claengineers.com>
Subject: Performance bond release South Road

Dave Gesiak dropped off a request for the release of the public improvement bond for the work in front of the 33 South Road house that was recently completed. He will also be submitting to me via email the request for the release of the E&S bond for this address as well.

I also received the release request for 384 Bozrah St E&S.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION
TOWN OF BOZRAH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HAZARD MITIGATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN UPDATE, 2023 -2028

WHEREAS, the Town of Bozrah has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. flooding, extreme heat, droughts, severe storms such as thunderstorms and winter storms, dam failures, wildfires, and earthquakes) resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Bozrah Board of Selectmen approved the previous versions of the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2005, 2012, and 2018; and

WHEREAS, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, of whom the Town of Bozrah is a member, has determined that climate change is affecting the frequency and severity of some hazards and therefore elected to expand the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to become a Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2022 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Bozrah; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Bozrah, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards while adapting to the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Bozrah eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Bozrah;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2023 by the Board of Selectmen of Bozrah, Connecticut

First Selectman

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Bozrah this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Town Clerk

AUGUST-BOS

Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka

From: Jeremy Tarasevich, Bozrah Selectman <selectmanjeremy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:55 PM
To: Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka
Cc: Bill Ballinger; Mike O'Connor; Ryan Sholes
Subject: Re: Fire Department Paid Staff

Good Afternoon,

The current paid staff were inquiring about the pay difference. Also, the last 2 people we approached passed on the offer to work due to the pay not being comparable.

I'm good with this being put on the agenda for the next regular BOS meeting in August. I will have some ideas on how we could move forward without having any major funding adjustments.

Thanks, Jeremy

Jeremy Tarasevich
Selectman

Town of Bozrah
1 River Road
Bozrah, CT 06334

On Jul 24, 2023, at 2:50 PM, Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka <FirstSelectman@bozrahct.org> wrote:

Jeremy

Your information is not a surprise and your points are totally understandable. We've just completed the budget process and Chief Sholes provided the information for pay rate increases which we were able to get approved for this fiscal year. The tone of this review sounds urgent. Has something changed in our employee forecast ?? Right now, the BOS will be grappling with a couple of major funding adjustments/requests that will require a BOS Special Meeting fairly soon as the BOF is anticipating a July 31 meeting. I am willing to put your info forward as an agenda item for our BOS meeting. Let us know your thoughts.

Glenn Pianka
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 21, 2023, at 9:26 AM, Jeremy Tarasevich, Bozrah Selectman <selectmanjeremy@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning,

I was reviewing other towns that currently have Pre-Diem Firefighter / EMT's and we are not competitive.

See below rates:

Voluntown: \$22 per hour

Lisbon: \$22 per hour (Plus get a \$1 raise each year they are employed)

Salem: \$22.81 per hour

East Haddam: \$24.29 - \$24.90 per hour

Town of Bozrah is \$19 per hour

JUST A SIDE NOTE: American Ambulance is paying \$22 per hour for a **BRAND NEW EMT** with **NO EXPERIENCE** to do just EMS.

This is making it harder to find qualified FF / EMT's to work for the Town of Bozrah. This is something the Town can not do with out.

FYI: The Paid Staff respond to roughly 275 calls out of our 696 calls in 2022.

I strongly believe that we need to bump up the Paid Staff pay to \$22 per hour to stay competitive with other towns. The pool of qualified FF/EMT's is getting smaller and we want to make sure the Town of Bozrah keeps who we have and can attract other qualified personnel.

The estimated cost for would be \$110,000. This is for 2 Paid Staff personnel 90 hours per week with some extra hours included for training and late calls.

The cost of \$110,000 is cheaper than having one **FULL TIME** firefighter / EMT

Currently we have \$85,000 in line item 120-53023 for the Paid Staff, we would have to add \$25,000 to be able to cover the increase to \$22.00 per hour

Thanks, Jeremy

Jeremy Tarasevich
Selectman

Town of Bozrah
1 River Road
Bozrah, CT 06334