

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
7:15 PM, Thursday, October 20, 2016
Minutes & Motions

Attendance: Members Chairman Robert Munroe, Morris Silverstein, Emily Bradley, and Robert DePietro were present. Members Vice Chairman Robert Flowers, Robert Gallé, and Matthew Maulucci were absent. Also present were Finance Director Jill Collins, Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Superintendent Kristen Heckt, and members of the BOE.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Robert Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

2. Public Participation: Sukie Longfellow, 119 South Road asked if the meeting calendar in the bulletin could be extended to show a full month ahead or if there was another place to find a full schedule of meetings. J. Stille said the bulletin showed the major meetings but had limited space. There is a calendar on the town website which is updated when boards submit their meeting dates.

3. Correspondence: None.

4. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a) Board of Education Update: The tennis courts have been completed and are closed to the public until spring so they settle in properly over the winter. Bolton High School recently was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon high school. Blue Ribbon schools retain that status for the lifetime of the school. BHS was the only high school in CT to receive the distinction. M. Silverstein moved to recognize the BOE for achieving the National Blue Ribbon award. E. Bradley seconded. Vote 4:0:0. K. Heckt said there will be a celebration for the upcoming 50th year anniversary of the first graduating BHS class. Enrollment is up this year.

E. Bradley explained that the BOF invited the BOE to the meeting for a better understanding of what caused the difference between the projected and actual cost of the sidewalks capital project. S. Rich stated there were a few factors that affected the result. He said it appears that the project was incorrectly underestimated, and the figure seems to have been carried forward from a few years ago. The total dollar amount estimated was construction only, not the total project cost (which includes contingency, engineer, etc.). Additional cost also arose in contracting as the actual bids did not necessarily match the original project concept. During construction, some items became necessary to address as part of the project, such as the stairs. While normally an estimate would include a cushion for the development process, the original estimate did not account for that.

M. Silverstein asked to verify if the BOE will be coming to the BOF for the total deficit (for all projects), currently estimated at \$350,248.71. The BOE said they will be looking to fund the deficit, but it might be less and would not be immediate. S. Rich stated that there are enough funds remaining to complete Phase 2 of the carpet replacement which is planned for next summer. The third part, asbestos abatement, is the portion that is no longer covered. Another reason for the deficit was the issue of

prevailing wage. Since the work was approved to be done in phases, they had believed the projects were small enough to not require inclusion of prevailing wage. However, since they were bundled into a single bond package, in the state's eyes, the work was approved as a single project and requires inclusion of prevailing wage. Prevailing wage has now been factored into all estimates as necessary.

R. Munroe said some short term borrowing will be required, but it will fortunately coincide with the dip in debt service. He encouraged closer involvement of boards groups to take advantage of the breadth of knowledge and experience in town, saying multiple sets of eyes could help with things like this. S. Rich agreed and noted that this particular project has been on the table for several years. As such projects get passed down, connectivity to the original meaning behind information and figures can be lost.

The BOE mentioned that there is an asbestos treatment program which offers some reimbursement in the form of a grant. The percentage difference appears to be roughly 50%.

The BOE also explained that the \$60,000 in retirement payment, previously incorrectly accounted for out of the relevant year, was now accounted for correctly and would continue to be so going forward. K. Heckt stated that since it had been necessary for some time and the surplus left them in a position to address it, they decided to do it now. Kusal Huynh said in the event of a citation, the cost with a plan to correct the error later would be roughly \$62,000. The \$60,000 payment is always made in July. The change was only in when it is accounted for.

b) Tax Collection Summary: J. Collins distributed a new report with the addition of a new transfer column. 100% of the budgeted amount has been collected.

c) Town Update: The budget was 24.90% expensed at the end of September, compared to 23.57% the previous year. No new information on a possible state level reduction in aid. The Department of Health has proposed changing health districts to go by county, with towns paying in 1.5 times their operating budget to the county facility, which would be run by the state. It is unclear if the operating budget would mean the BOS or both the BOS and BOE. Even if only based on the BOS, it would still mean a 223% increase, about \$60,000-\$70,000 in additional funds to come up with in the budget. J. Stille said if the proposal moves forward, the town will ask people to contact state representatives. She also noted that the town would lose say in provided services since the system would be state run.

5. Old Business:

a) Shared Services Update: No new information.

6. Approval of Minutes: Tabled for the next meeting to include absent BOF members, by consensus of the present BOF members.

7. New Business:

a) Three Board Meeting: The next meeting will be November 2, 2016, at 7 p.m., Town Hall.

8. Ongoing Business:

a) Status Report on Bolton High School Project: J. Collins and K. Huynh are working to finalize paperwork for reimbursement.

8. Adjournment: M. Silverstein moved to adjourn. R. DePietro seconded. Adjournment was at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

Please see minutes of subsequent meeting for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.