

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
7:00 PM, Thursday, April 21, 2016
Minutes & Motions

The Board of Finance (BOF) held a Public Hearing on April 21, 2016 in the Bolton High School Student Commons to hear comments on the proposed Board of Education and Board of Selectmen budgets for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Copies were available for review. Members Chairman Robert Munroe, Morris Silverstein, Matthew Maulucci, Robert Flowers, Robert Gallé, Emily Bradley, and Robert DePietro were present. Also present were Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Finance Director Jill Collins, members of the BOS, the BOE, and the public.

Chairman Munroe opened the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Introductory Remarks

Chairman Munroe explained the main drivers of revenue, such as tax revenue interest and the grand list, have been slow to grow. The state's ongoing budget shortfall was an added issue. The budgets proposed by the BOS and BOE were entirely substantiated, yet reductions were necessary. There is a required debt service of \$150,000. Tuition from Columbia students is down again. The BOF had agreed to reduce the BOE's proposed increase of \$239,826 by \$24,000, and reduce the BOS' proposed increase of \$263,022 by \$20,000. They decided to work towards a tax increase under a ceiling of a 3%, settling on 2.91%. Since that decision, the BOF received news that the state budget reduced Bolton's expected funds by \$132,000. After the public hearing the BOF would discuss closing that gap.

First Selectman Robert Morra and Superintendent Kristin Heckt expressed appreciation for the BOF's efforts in working with their respective boards to arrive at a realistic budget and the efforts of their staff.

Public Comment

Ray Boyd, 36 Box Mountain Road, asked if there was a chance that any of the \$132,000 reduction from the state would be reallocated. R. Flowers said it is highly unlikely given the state's fiscal situation so they are taking it as final.

Alison Romkey, 23 Shoddy Mill Road, asked about the status of the BHS project, as the town may see a reimbursement for some of the costs when it is closed. R. Morra said it is in the final phase of getting to audit approval, at which time the state has to close the audit within 6 months. Until then, they are not held to a time frame.

Nancy Sullivan, 69 High Ridge Farm Lane, voiced support of the BOE and BOS budgets and asked the BOF to retain as much as possible of the BOE budget.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Chairman Munroe closed the hearing at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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