

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**7:15 PM, Thursday, March 30, 2017**  
**Minutes & Motions**

**Attendance:** Members Chairman Robert Munroe, Morris Silverstein, Matthew Maulucci, Robert Flowers, Emily Bradley, Robert DePietro, and Robert Gallé were present. Staff present were Finance Director Jill Collins, First Selectman Robert Morra, and Selectmen Sandra Pierog, Gwen Marrison, and Michael Eremita. Administrative Officer Joyce Stille was not present. Also present were Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Bolton Public Schools Finance Director Kusal Huynh, Board of Education members Scott Rich and Andrew Broneill, Deputy Fire Chief Peter Morra, and resident Trish Brudz.

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Robert Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm.

**2. Public Participation:** None.

**3. Discussion Re: FY18 Budgets (Revenues & Expenditures):**

R. Munroe summarized the major gaps in the upcoming budget that have to be covered. The BOE's proposed budget contains an increase of about \$470,000; the BOS's proposed budget contains an increase of about \$239,000. Debt service is \$3,000 higher than last year and there is \$527,000 in proposed in Capital. Besides the regular budget increases, the current state budget proposal would require Bolton to come up with another \$1.2 million.

Whether towns will have to pay into the teacher retirement fund, and how much, is still in question. There are multiple budget proposals and alternative funding structures still being drawn up at the state.

J. Collins reviewed estimated Revenues for FY16-17. The total is about \$270,000 higher than was budgeted.

R. Flowers asked whether the impact of crumbling foundations on the grand list could be known yet. M. Eremita and R. Morra said that people are reluctant to come forward before any prospect of relief and are waiting to see how it plays out at the state. Many are still just now finding out they have the issue. Upwards of 10 homes are known in Bolton, which translates to a \$50,000 reduction in the grand list.

R. DePietro said he thought the BOF should have a strong plan if the worst case state budget scenario does come to pass.

R. Munroe led discussion on how to respond to the potential Teacher Retirement Fund cost. The current number from the state is \$714,000. The latest discussion at the state is centering on phasing the amount over five years, which would put this year at \$142,800. Legally, the funds cannot be taken from municipalities and must be from the state, so if the proposal does go through, the law will have to be changed first.

M. Silverstein believed the town can handle the \$142,000 amount without having to pass it on to residents via taxes, instead using reductions and the contingency budget. R. Munroe suggested a combination of the BOE budget and contingency. M. Silverstein pointed out that if the BOE budget is increased for that purpose, the statute against decreasing the BOE budget will prevent readjustment afterwards. R. Gallé agreed the BOE budget should not be raised for that same reason.

The BOF discussed contingency solutions. In Bolton, the contingency fund is composed of the cash surplus fund and the rainy day fund. They discussed the possibility of changing policy within BOF jurisdiction to allow the funds to go solely into cash surplus this year, which would allow those funds to be used towards the budget gap.

**4. Discussion on High School Building Project:** J. Stille was unable to attend due to illness. R. Morra said there will be a report next Thursday meeting.

**5. Discussion on Shared Services:**

The BOF explained it is highly interested in sharing and consolidating services and equipment between the town and schools in order to increase efficiency and lower costs and redundancy. The BOS is also on board. K. Heckt said there will be additional factors such as contract negotiations to consider. E. Bradley said they understood it would require planning and be a multi-year process, but given the state finances, it had to be addressed and planned for starting as soon as possible. The BOF, BOS, K. Heckt, and present BOE members agreed to continue discussion at 3-board meeting on April 18, which is when a Mansfield representative was to come speak on shared services.

**6. Review of Budget Calendar:**

R. Galle moved to hold the Public Hearing on the FY2017-2018 budget on May 1, 2017. E. Bradley seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

**7. Adjournment:** M. Silverstein moved to adjourn. M. Maulucci seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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