

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
7:15 PM, Thursday, April 20, 2017
Minutes & Motions

Attendance: Members Chairman Robert Munroe, Morris Silverstein, Matthew Maulucci, Robert Flowers ,Emily Bradley, and Robert DePietro were present. Robert Gallé was present by phone. Staff present were Finance Director Jill Collins, Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, First Selectman Robert Morra, and Selectmen Michael Eremita and Gwen Marrion. Also present were Superintendent Kristin Heckt, and Board of Education members Liz Krueger, Scott Rich, and Andrew Broneill. Karen Bergin also attended.

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

2. Public Participation: None.

3. Discussion and Action re: FY18 Proposed Budget for presentation to Public Hearing:

M. Silverstein presented comments on the budget policies in the charter and emphasized that changes in the budget must be accurately presented and documented. There was some discussion on the usual practice of funds being reallocated among town budgets by the BOS in response to reductions. M. Eremita referred to the town vote to give town line item authority to the BOS, saying the intent of the change (to allow the BOS better management of its budget) was appropriately reflected in the practice. M. Silverstein was also concerned that funds might have been transferred from the Capital Reserve Budget to the town proper in FY17. Discussion clarified that Capital Reserve was left unchanged and that Capital Improvements was reduced as is up to BOS' discretion.

The BOS discussed changing the contingency budget policy to aid its use in the FY18 budget. R. DePietro moved to adopt the modification to the Town of Bolton Policy on Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance by adding, after the second sentence, **“Beginning July 1, 2017, the annual savings from the contingency account to be added to the reserve shall be capped at \$25,000 with any additional savings being added to the cash surplus.”** E. Bradley seconded. Vote 6:1:0, M. Silverstein against.

R. Munroe reviewed current budget assumptions. To cover BOS and BOE budgets as requested would merit a tax increase around 4.5%. The BOF felt there was no way the public would support that high of an increase. Historically the budget has passed with a tax increase under or around the 3% mark. K. Heckt said that \$28,000 would be the most the BOE would have as surplus. R. Morra said he will push for \$150,000 in surplus from the town budget. R. Munroe said by withdrawing the 32 mil cap, while disqualifying the town for the grant, would increase revenue potential by a net of \$72,000. Altogether there is a sum of about \$276,000 in new expenditures or lost revenue from the state. The Teacher Retirement Fund was yet undetermined but Bolton boards expect it to come at around 20%.

R. Munroe noted that this was a contingency fund that will have to be under the BOF, as both the BOE and BOS are likely to need the funds in it.

E. Bradley moved to accept FY Revised Revenues at \$19,898,090. R. Flowers seconded. Vote 6:1:0, M. Silverstein against.

R. Flowers moved to adopt a budget of \$21,446,355, a 2.9% tax increase, for presentation to the public at the hearing. E. Bradley seconded. Discussion followed. R. Gallé felt the tax increase too high, especially since he expected the town to continue to sustain funding hits from the state over the next several years. If the public was in favor at the hearing he would consider modifying his stance. He was in favor of using the contingency budget. M. Silverstein was very concerned over the use of the contingency budget. He said the BOF is a board of response, not initiation, and that these measures were trying to outguess the Governor's budget result. As no expenditure request in that amount as been brought to the BOF, he believed the board should act as the Boards of Education and Superintendents in the state are doing, building budgets according to need without incorporating potential costs incurred by the as yet unknown state budget. M. Maulucci found the 2.9% acceptable for the public hearing. R. DePietro agreed. E. Bradley also felt it was a good mid-range point to cushion risk. Vote 5:2:0, M. Silverstein and R. Gallé against.

4. Approval of Minutes:

March 16, 2017: R. Flowers moved to approve with the following corrections: In attendance: "R. Flowers" should read "Robert Flowers." First Selectman Robert Morra was not present. Selectman Michael Eremita was present. In the first paragraph, page 2, it should be noted that there was found to be a misunderstanding and the funds in question were not encumbrances. In item 6C, "R. Munroe" should read "R. Morra." E. Bradley seconded. Vote 7:0:0.

March 23, 2017: R. Flowers moved to approve with the following amendment: In item 2, "...the FFE (Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment) budget *was found to be insufficient, making a budget increase necessary.* The document approving that *increase...*" was changed to "...the FFE (Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment) budget *needed to be modified.* The document approving that *modification...*" E. Bradley seconded. Vote 7:0:0.

March 30, 2017: R. Flowers moved to approve. In item 3, fourth paragraph, the last sentence was amended to read "Upwards of 10 homes are known in Bolton, which translates to a *potential* \$50,000 reduction in the grand list *proceeds*" (italics added). M. Maulucci seconded. Vote 7:0:0.

5. Correspondence: None.

6. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a) **Tax Collection Summary:** Tax collection continues to go well at 100.44% of the budgeted amount.

b) **Town Update:** The town is 65.25% expensed.

c) **Board of Education Budget Update:** New special education expenses have come in. On Monday, June 5, there will be a celebration and community music event at BHS in commemoration of

the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class and the National Blue Ribbon Award received this past year.

7. Old Business:

Budget Calendar: No changes.

Shared Services: The boards are choosing a date for the 3-board meeting and discussion on sharing services. K. Heckt reported the recent EastConn meeting on sharing services between school districts was informative.

Update on High School Building Project: Gilbane's search has moved from physical records to electronic records at Iron Mountain.

8. Adjournment: M. Silverstein moved to adjourn. E. Bradley seconded. Vote 7:0:0. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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