

**Bolton Board of Finance
Public Hearing
May 1, 2018 - 7pm
Bolton High School
Minutes**

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Vice Chair Robert Flowers, Emily Bradley, Matthew Maulucci, and Robert DePietro

Members Excused: Robert Galle and Richard Tuthill

Others Present: Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Finance Director Jill Collins, First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Deputy Selectman Robert Morra, Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Board of Education Chair Elizabeth Krueger, and about fifteen members of the public

R. Munroe called the public hearing to order at 7:07 pm. He presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019. R. Munroe explained how the Board of Finance approached preparing the budget proposal. The proposed budget has no tax increase, with exactly the same mil rate as last year.

R. Munroe opened the hearing for questions from the public.

Pete Morra asked about the state cap on car tax. The state has set the cap at 41, however, our mil rate is 39.47.

Jason Norris of Castle Rock Rd inquired about the contingency fund and state funding concerns. R. Munroe shared that the Board of Finance did consider reducing the contingency fund, but based on continued uncertainty would like to maintain the contingency fund. J. Norris also asked how Bolton's debt service relates to other towns that are similar in size. Bolton's debt service is considered low in comparison to other towns. Bolton's debt is on the lower end compared to other towns. The debt service will peak next year with one more slight increase.

Adam Teller of Elizabeth Rd shared that the Democratic Town Committee is supporting the proposed budget and thanked the Boards for their efforts.

Paula Meyers of Country Club Rd inquired about Bolton's ability to maintain roads, the decrease in senior service expenditures, and alternative policing options. The town is on a cycle for road maintenance and is only down about \$70,000 this year. The decreases in expenditures on senior services are related to a reevaluation of payroll, not a reflection of changes in programs. Alternative options for policing are being evaluated.

Chris Davey asked about paying down debt service. It would require a lot of money to pay down debts early. Current debt cannot not be paid off early. The Board of Finance believes we are in a solid financial position with the current debt.

The public hearing adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rebekah Rupert

Recording Secretary

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