

**Bolton Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2018 - 7:15pm
Town Hall**

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Robert Galle, Emily Bradley, Richard Tuthill, and Robert DePietro (arrived at 7:35pm)

Members Excused: Vice Chair Robert Flowers and Matthew Maulucci

Others Present: Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Finance Director Jill Collins, First Selectman Sandra Pierog, and Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra

- 1) **Call to Order:** R. Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm.
- 2) **Public Participation:** None
- 3) **Approval of Minutes**
 - a) **May 10, 2018:** E. Bradley moved to approve the May 10, 2018 special meeting minutes as written. R. Tuthill seconded the motion. Vote 2:0:2 with E. Bradley and R. Tuthill in favor. R. Galle and R. Munroe abstained. Motion carries.
- 4) **Correspondence:** None
- 5) **Action re: Mil rate for FY 19**

R. Munroe shared that it looks like ECS funding will not be reduced as much as was anticipated for FY 18-19. It also does not look like the Town will be responsible for the anticipated higher percentage of state trooper costs. These items will have an unanticipated positive impact on the town of about \$200,000. The Board of Finance considered these items in conjunction with the anticipated mil rate of 39.5.

R. Galle made a motion to set the mil rate at 39.0. E. Bradley seconded the motion. R. Galle explained that since the Board of Finance made a decision last year to increase the anticipated mil rate, the Board should do the same this year to decrease the anticipated mil rate. This action would demonstrate that the Board is being prudent with taxpayers' money.

R. DePietro arrived at 7:35pm and was updated on the discussion.

R. Munroe shared a report from the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Development. R. Munroe shared his concern that if the Board sets a lower mil rate this year then budgeting will be more difficult next year. The governor still has the power to reduce the

money that is sent to the town mid-year. Even with positive indicators the Town could still face mid-year reductions.

The Board asked for J. Stille, J. Collins, S. Pierog, and R. Morra to share their perspectives. J. Stille shared that anticipated state revenues are still uncertain and that the \$200,000 could easily be lost in a variety of other places. J. Collins echoed her concern. S. Pierog predicted lower tax revenue and cuts to municipal reimbursement. She is concerned about mid-year cuts. R. Morra expressed agreement with R. Galle's logic and with all of the factors that J. Stille and S. Pierog brought up.

R. Tuthill commented that the taxpayers are opposed to volatility and the Board should consider the desires of the taxpayers. E. Bradley would like to be able to give back to the taxpayers. The contingency fund was purposefully kept high because of the unknown factors that might come up.

R. Munroe thanked everyone for their well thought out positions and called for a vote on R. Galle's motion to establish the mil rate at 39.0. Vote, 3:2:0 with R. Galle, E. Bradley and R. DePietro voting in favor. R. Tuthill and R. Munroe were opposed. Motion passed.

6) Elected Official and Town Staff Reports

- a) **Tax Collection Summary:** J. Collins the current year levy is at 100.32%. The more tax that is collected this year, the less that will be collected in future years from prior year taxes

R. Munroe asked about the outstanding tuition revenue. J. Collins shared that she did reach out to ask if the Town would be receiving the anticipated special education revenue. The revenue that is received may be less than the expected revenue.

Bolton will receive the state grant for emergency management but depending on when the money is received it might be credited to FY 18-19.

R. Munroe noted that the special education excess cost grant is volatile. Last year the grant was reduced by \$38,000 because the excess cost was lower than projected. In FY 18-19 the reduction could be in excess of \$38,000.

- b) **Town Update:** Town government expenditures through May 31st are similar to previous years. Money is encumbered for spring paving. With cost escalation, the cost of paving is going up significantly.

J. Stille presented the budget transfers. There continues to be uncertainty about unemployment. To date it has only been paid through March as the Town receives the bills two months later.

c) **BOE Update:** Looking at the BOE report through the end of April, R. Munroe noted the transfer from transportation to technology. Deferring discussion until the BOE is present.

7) **Town and BOE List of Reductions:** The town had to come up with \$50,000 in reductions. Most of that money came from police protection. The BOE shows reductions in salary expenses, but the full time employee count did not change. Discussion was deferred until the BOE is present.

8) **Ongoing Business**

a) **Shared Services:** Nothing to report.

b) **Update on High School Building Project:** Nothing to report.

9) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Rupert
Recording Secretary

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