

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018, 7:15 P.M.
Bolton Town Hall**

Minutes

Members Present: Vice Chair Robert Flowers, Robert DePietro, Robert Galle, Matthew Maulucci, Richard Tuthill, and Emily Bradley.

Members Excused: Chairman Robert Munroe

Others Present: Administrative Officer Joyce Stille and Seamus Bailey

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by R. Flowers at 7:18 p.m.

2. Public Comment: No public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes:

December 14, 2017 Regular Meeting: R. Galle MOVED to APPROVE the regular meeting minutes of December 14, 2017 as presented. R. DePietro SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

4. Correspondence:

5. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports

a. Tax Collection Summary: J. Stille reviewed the tax collection summary provided by the Tax Collector which showed the current year levy for personal property and real estate were at 110%. She said the collection rates look very promising on all the categories. Discussion followed on refunds, returned checks and the number of persons using the online payment option.

b. Town Budget Update: J. Stille reported the State share of funding of \$30,000.00 for the elderly tax relief was cut, so the Town is expecting zero State funding for this program in FY 2019. The people eligible for this tax relief received that benefit in their tax bills sent out in June. However, the decision by the State to cut the funding for this program was not made until October. J. Stille said, although the State share is gone, she is confident the \$30,000.00 Town share of the tax break will be funded in next year's budget. Members expressed concern that recipients of this tax relief will view this as a tax increase because the funding for the program has been cut in half. J. Stille said the affected residents are aware of the change in the program, but she will discuss the program funding with the Tax Collector and Assessor. R. Galle recommended continuing this as a talking point during budget discussion.

J. Stille explained when the elderly tax deferment ordinance takes effect shortly, qualifying residents will be grandfathered into the mil rate at the current threshold and will continue to pay taxes each year at that mil rate no matter what happens to the mil rate (i.e. increases). As this is a deferment program, the tax liability for the difference in taxes owed between the grandfathered rate and the actual mil rate remains and becomes a lien placed on the property.

Discussion followed on the possibility of a State deficit mitigation plan this year and current year revenues.

J. Stille reviewed the Town expenditures through 12/31/17. She explained that, although the Town's share of the Trooper's salary currently remains at 85%, the Police benefit package went up over 8 %. She said some other budgetary concerns are that the Town had to replace a transmission in one of the Fire Department's service trucks. A budget transfer of \$4,500 from the Tax Collector Other Payroll line item to the Fringe Benefits Unemployment line item was shared. The audit is expected to be completed by January 31st, but the Town may have to ask for another extension.

J. Stille reported that the 2017 Grand List shows an increase of .68%.

c. Board of Education Update: There was no representation from the Board of Education present to address any questions on the budget status reports from November and December 2017. R. Flowers will contact the Superintendent to request representation at a future BOF meeting.

6. Ongoing Business

a. FY18 Budget Status: R. Flowers said there was discussion at the last BOF meeting to try to align the political/economic reality of the State to what the Town is walking into with its own budget process coming up. At that meeting, the board asked questions as to "what ifs" based on projected funding going into next year and what the Town is doing now to prepare for that. He asked that the discussion be continued to the February meeting.

In response, J. Stille said the Town is just starting the budgets and budget discussions and information given a month before the budgets are finalized might not be as helpful as information provided in the final budgets presented to the BOF in March. R. Flowers said the request was made so that the BOF could have some expectations walking into the budget process.

b. Status Report on High School Building Project: J. Stille reported that the State audit is ongoing with the auditors requesting information from Gilbane. The audit report is expected to be ready by May or June.

c. Shared Services: E. Bradley reported that she and R. Munroe met with Board of Education Chair Liz Krueger and Superintendent of Schools Kristin Heckt, to talk through and get their perspectives on shared services on the accounts payable and building maintenance sides. Future committee discussions with the BOE and BOS are planned.

J. Stille explained revenues coming in from Columbia students go toward a school capital fund just for the high school and are for things including debt service. Discussion followed. The board was concerned with how any possible loss of revenue-paying Columbia students could affect the future of the high school.

7. New Business

a. Adoption of Proposed FY2019 Budget Calendar:

E. Bradley MOVED to adopt the budget calendar with the following changes:

- The March 15, 2018 meeting will be a discussion of revenues
- The March 22, 2018 meeting will be the presentation from the Board of Education and
- The March 28, 2018 will be the presentation from the Board of Selectmen

and will confirm with the BOE and the BOS that those dates are acceptable and, if need be, switch the dates for the two boards. R. Tuthill SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

8. Adjournment: R. DePietro MOVED to ADJOURN the regular meeting at 9:04 p.m. E. Bradley SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda H. McDonald, Recording Secretary

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.