

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Budget Public Hearing**  
**April 30, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bolton High School, 72 Brandy Road, Bolton, CT**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chair Robert Monroe, Emily Bradley, Robert DePietro, Robert Flowers, and Richard Tuthill

Members Absent: Robert Galle and Matthew Maulucci

**Others Present:** Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Superintendent of Schools Kristin Heckt, Recording Secretary Linda McDonald, Elizabeth Krueger, Susan Pike, Christopher Davey, Adam Teller, Peter Morra, Selectman Robert Morra, Paula Meyers, Journal Inquirer reporter Emily Brindley, Scott Rich, Alison Romkey, Dave Nelson, Selectman Michael Eremita, and others.

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair R. Monroe at 7:12 p.m.

**2. Public Hearing for the Town of Bolton Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 Budget:**

R. Munroe apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting which he explained was due to just receiving new information on changes regarding the State's funding method for teachers' retirement. He said funding the Teacher Retirement System is a new cost to the Town and part of the Governor's proposed budget.

R. Munroe gave a power point presentation of the proposed Town budget for FY 2020. He said the goal of the Board of Finance (BOF) was to come up with a budget that would not increase the mil rate. But, because of the recent property revaluation, some residents will see an increase in their tax bill, while others will see a reduction or no change.

R. Munroe explained the Board of Education (BOE) and Board of Selectmen (BOS) agreed to share a facilities director, which will result in \$30,000.00 - \$40,000.00 in savings this year and additional savings in the future. To support this shared services agreement, the BOF added \$85,000.00 to the Town budget and reduced the BOE budget by the same amount.

The reduction in the ECS funding to towns was accelerated to three years and could result in less money to the Town. The BOE was looking for a budget increase of \$223,000.00. The BOF reduced the BOE budget by \$109,120.00. He said this proposed budget could achieve a no mil increase.

He acknowledged the efforts of both boards to review how they are spending their money, resulting in significant savings to health insurance. He said the BOE and BOS continue to look for grants.

R. Munroe reported the Taxable Grand List for 2018 grew by 1.84%, which provided the BOF an additional \$235,000.00 to support the proposed budget. He said most revenues come from taxes. The proposed mil rate is 39.00, with no change from last year.

R. Munroe opened the floor to discussion.

R. Tuthill requested information regarding CHOICE education grant he heard about and inquired how is it being handled. R. Munroe responded, as of yesterday, there is additional grant revenue coming to the BOE made up of six parts. As a result of Bolton's success with the CHOICE program, the BOE will receive an additional bonus of grant money totaling \$51,000.00. The grant is definitive as to what it can be used for.

R. Munroe said there was BOF conversation on how grant funds should be spent at prior meetings. Regarding how the CHOICE bonus grant would be handled, R. Munroe explained it is not known what the CHOICE tuition number will be for the next school year. There could be 5 fewer students at a reduction in \$8,000.00 each that would offset the additional grant money. R. Munroe said towns are limited by state statute on how they can look at BOE line items.

R. Tuthill said he has no desire to micro-manage the BOE budget. He is only concerned with the lack of transparency in line item transfers within the BOE budget.

Robert Morra, of 15 Tinker Pond Road, asked if the CHOICE grant is a one-time additional grant. K. Heckt responded the BOE received bonuses for increase in enrollment, kindergarten and a bonus entitlement for a total of \$52,190.00. R. Morra asked if the grant money can be used for capital improvements. K. Heckt responded the grant can be utilized to enhance education and support the needs of the CHOICE students.

Peter Morra, of 20 Tinker Pond Road said, as custodian at the high school, he was troubled with the capital expenditures replacement of a one-ton pickup for the Public Works Department (DPW). He expressed concern that the school has vehicles that are at least 13 years old and is getting used vehicles from other departments. He said the school should get what it deserves, meaning the school should get the truck first. R. Munroe responded capital expenditures are controlled by the BOS and encouraged P. Morra to bring his concern to that board.

Mike Eremita, of 30 Lorri Road, commented the vehicle could be available to everybody under the shared services agreement. R. Morra responded the future intent and goal of the Town is to better utilize the equipment.

Hearing no other comments, R. Munroe closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Linda H. McDonald*

Linda H. McDonald, Recording Secretary

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