

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
April 30, 2019 (following the conclusion of the Public Hearing)
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, 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, Selectman Robert Morra, Elizabeth Krueger, Susan Pike, Journal Inquirer reporter Emily Brinley, Scott Rich, and others.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair R. Monroe at 8:19 p.m.

2. Public Participation: There was no public participation.

3. Discussion and Action Regarding the FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Revenues:

R. Flowers MOVED to adopt the revised revenue budget of \$21,106,211.00 for FY 2019 and approve the proposed revenues of \$20,695,798.00 for FY 2020. E. Bradley SECONDED. Discussion followed. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

4. Discussion and Action regarding the Ballot Question for the May 21, 2019 Budget Referendum:

R. Munroe said he enjoyed hearing from residents and did not hear anything to take into consideration in changing the current proposed budget.

R. DePietro agreed with R. Monroe but has concern with the status of the Contingency Fund.

E. Bradley commented the Town must do due diligence for shared services, now and in the future.

R. Tuthill asked about the status of the shared services agreement for merging equipment usage. Superintendent of Schools K. Heckt responded the shared services agreement was signed this evening. Discussion followed on carrying out the logistics of the agreement.

R. Flowers commented on the reduction of \$109,120.00 made in the BOE budget. A facilities position of \$85,000.00 was eliminated from the BOE budget and moved to fund a new position in the BOS budget. There was also \$24,000.00 in savings gained in the BOE budget not funding certain expenditures. He supported the proposed budget as presented.

R. Tuthill said he disagreed with communicating to the residents that the BOE budget was really reduced by \$109,120.00 and that a savings was really achieved. Discussion followed. The original BOE reduction amount was \$195,000.00.

Ballot Question:

E. Bradley MOVED to propose a \$50,000 decrease in the Town/Debt Service/Capital Budget and a \$109,120.00 decrease in the Board of Education budget for a total expenditure of \$22,253,789. R. Flowers SECONDED. MOTION FAILED 3:2:0 with E. Bradley and R. Tuthill opposed. As per Town Charter, the budget must be approved by four members.

E. Bradley explained one of the reasons why she voted no goes back to the realization of the \$85,000.00 savings. She said she would like the some of the \$85,000.00 shared service savings shared across the two budgets. Right now, the BOE is realizing all the savings. Discussion followed. R. DePietro said he would like to separate discussion of shared services savings from the overall budget reductions.

K. Heckt said the total cost for the facilities director position in the BOE budget including benefits, taxes, insurance was \$136,810.00. This total minus the \$85,000.00 saved by moving the facilities director position to the Town budget results in an additional savings of \$51,810.00 realized in the BOE budget.

R. Flowers suggested an allocation of the savings between the two boards based on their total expenditure to the total town budget.

R. Flowers stated "There are savings realized in the BOE budget that otherwise we would have had to tax people \$51,000.00 if we hadn't done the deal (shared services of facilities director). That's a real-life savings we are taking advantage of with the upcoming vote to get them to a flat mil rate."

Members concurred that the budget document at referendum should emphasize this message.

R. Flowers MOVED to propose to reduce the Town/Debt Service/Capital Budget by \$35,500 and \$123,620.00 to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$123,620.00 E. Bradley SECONDED. Discussion followed.

E. Bradley MOVED to amend the prior motion to propose to reduce the Town/Debt Service/Capital Budget by \$35,000 and to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$124,120. R. Flowers SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:1:0 with R. Tuthill opposed.

E. Bradley MOVED the following resolution to go to the May 21, 2019 Budget Referendum:

"Shall the Annual Budget for the Town of Bolton, Connecticut for the fiscal year 2019-2020 as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$22,253,789.00 be adopted?"

R. Flowers SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:1:0 with R. Tuthill opposed.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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.