

BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020– 7:15 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM
Minutes

BOF Members Present: Chairman Emily Bradley, Richard Tuthill, Vice-Chair Robert Munroe, Charles Danna Jr. Ross Lally, Kristen Gourley, and Robert DePietro

Board of Education Members Present: Susan Pike, Anne Decker, Christopher Davey, Scott Rich, Director of Business and Finance Kusal Huynh, and Superintendent of Schools Kristin Heckt

Staff Present: First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Administrative Officer Joshua Steele Kelly, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, and Board Clerk Linda McDonald

Others Present: Nick Lavigne, Steven Toomey

1. Call to Order: E. Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. with roll call of participants.

2. Public Participation: First Selectman S. Pierog reported the town meeting situation for Bolton has not been yet addressed by the Governor.

She said Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 75 yesterday, a section of which addresses suspension and modification of tax deadlines and collection which reads as follows:

“6. Suspension and Modification of Tax Deadlines and Collection Efforts. Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of Chapter 204 of the Connecticut General Statutes or of any special act, charter, home-rule ordinance, local ordinance or other local law, there shall be established two programs to offer support to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Such programs shall be known as the "Deferment Program" and the "Low Interest Rate Program." Each municipality, as defined in section 7-148 of the general statutes, by determination of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, shall participate in one or both programs and shall notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management no later than April 25, 2020, about which program or programs it is electing to participate in. a. Deferment Program. During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that I declared the public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including July 1, 2020, municipalities participating in the Deferment Program shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by CO VID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall issue guidance as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the Deferment Program, but participating municipalities may, upon approval of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, extend eligibility for the deferment program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.”

3. Discussion Re: FY 2021 Budgets (Revenues & Expenditures):

The board members reviewed and discussed the Town of Bolton Proposed Budget for FY2021 draft. The proposed budget reflects \$1,280,488.00 cash available from FY2020 that would roll into next year. Total FY2021 revenue is proposed at \$20,690,425.00 and total expenditures are \$22,871,843.00. This would result in a \$638,134.00 shortfall which includes rolling in contingency funds (\$66,000) if not used this year.

J. Collins reported the DMV is waiving motor vehicle registrations at this time and other revenues will be down due to less foot traffic in town departments.

The board members discussed the FY2021 projected BOE grants budget presented by Superintendent of Schools K. Heckt. Members discussed presenting the information in a way clearer to the public.

Superintendent of Schools K. Heckt noted, in the event of another upsurge of the virus in the fall, the BOE would not be in a position provide a chrome book to each student and may need more funds to purchase additional chrome books if available. There is currently a shortage. She will present an alternative scenario budget plan to the board to reflect current circumstances.

E. Bradley said there is not enough information at this time to make decisions on the revised figures for this year's budget and next year's proposed budget. Board discussion followed on adopting a budget in these uncertain times. E. Bradley asked the members to bring their creative thoughts on where the board needs to take the budget for discussion at the next meeting.

Members thanked J. Collins, J. Kelly and S. Pierog and the rest of the financial staff for putting the revenue documents together for tonight's meeting on short notice.

4. Consider and Act on: FY 2021 Proposed Budget for Public Hearing (Possible Action): No action taken.

5. Review of Budget Calendar: R. Munroe MOVED to eliminate the special 4/8/2020 meeting from the budget calendar. K. Gourley SECONDED. By roll call, MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

Next Meetings:

April 9, 2020 – Special Meeting – 7:15 pm –Zoom Virtual Platform (if necessary)
April 14, 2020 - Special Meeting – 7:15 pm –Zoom Virtual Platform (if necessary)
April 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting – 7:15 pm - Town Hall or Virtual Platform

6. Adjournment: E. Bradley adjourned the regular meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda H. McDonald

Linda H. McDonald, Board Clerk

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