

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021– 7:15 pm  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM  
Minutes**

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Chairman Emily Bradley, Vice-Chair Robert Munroe, Ross Lally, Kristen Gourley, Richard Tuthill and Charles Danna Jr.

**Board of Finance Members Absent:** Robert DePietro

**Board of Selectmen Members Present:** First Selectman Sandra Pierog

**Staff Present:** Interim Town Administrator Jim Rupert and Board Clerk Linda McDonald

1. Call to Order: E. Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

2. Public Participation: No public participation.

3. Approval of Minutes:

3.a Approval of September 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Bradley asked unanimous consent of the September 22, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Hearing no objections, the Chair said the minutes are approved.

4. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

4.a Board of Education Update: E. Bradley reported, as of September 30, 2021, the BOE budget is 13% expended for FY 2022. She said, at last night's Tri-Board meeting, Superintendent Heckt said there are some changes happening in Special Education and several open positions. Discussion followed.

S. Pierog said it looks like the town will be \$70,000 short in the debt budget from the decrease in tuition contribution from Columbia students.

4.b Tax Collection Summary: E. Bradley reported as of September 30, 2021 report the current tax levy collected was at 98.67%. Additional taxes will be collected when the supplemental bills go out in January.

4.c Town Update: S. Pierog reported the books on the town's side have not yet been closed for FY2021. She said things are proceeding as expected for FY2022 as of September 20, 2021 with no concerns and some storm-related costs are being recouped through FEMA funding.

Members reviewed the FY 2022 Revenue statement as of September 30, 2021. J. Rupert said the increase in the Miscellaneous Revenue line item was from the sale of an old plow truck. K. Gourley asked that the Choice funds be tracked.

5. New Business:

5.a Discussion on Ballot Questions:

S. Pierog remaindered the members that this is a public meeting and the board is using Town resources, so the board cannot inform the public on how they should vote. The board can discuss reasons to vote yes or no but cannot indicate to individuals how they should vote.

E. Bradley shared the document to the residents listing the referendum questions pertaining to the Town Charter revision. The members reviewed each referendum question. S. Pierog said the revised Charter would be effective upon passage, but the effective date for most changes would be July 1, 2022 and explained the processes of how the BOS and BOF elected positions would be changed with implementation of the Charter revision.

5.b Discussion on Referendum Feedback:

Discussion followed on R. Lally's written observations on resident feedback he heard at the polls for the budget referenda earlier this year. R. Lally noted voter turnout was very low. Discussion followed on how to encourage people to come out to vote with suggestions including providing a more concise, simple budget summary and having another CVC presentation. Members discussed ways to get the message out to the public and how to make the budget cuts more real to the public. K. Gourley suggested keeping the conversation going throughout the entire year, not just at budget time.

S. Pierog said there is a misconception in the public that Bolton is not business friendly. She said Bolton has won awards in the past 2 years for its administration of the land use permit process.

The members thanked R. Lally for putting this together. E. Bradley asked the members to think about what things could be implemented and improved.

S. Pierog said Ellington is putting together a Community Voice Channel (CVC) presentation on "This is how we build a budget." CVC thought it would be a great idea to expand that and contact the Boards of Finance and CEO or Town Administrator from all the CVC towns and get a panel involved as to "this is how we put our budget together and this is what is different" and let the towns share best practices. She said CVC will be reaching out to E. Bradley.

6. Adjournment: E. Bradley adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meetings:

November 17, 2021 Special Meeting – 7:15 p.m.

December 22, 2021 Regular Meeting - 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald, Board Clerk

*Linda H. McDonald.*

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