

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021– immediately following the public hearing  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM  
Minutes**

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

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Ross Lally

**Board of Selectmen Present:** First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Selectman Robert DePietro, and Selectman Robert Morra

**Board of Education Members Present:** Superintendent Kristin Heckt

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

1. Call to Order: E. Bradley called the special meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.
2. Public Participation: There was no public participation.
3. Ongoing Business
- 3.a Discussion on FY 2021-2022 Revenues and Expenditures:

First Selectman Pierog reported the Town did get numbers from the State late last week but the BOS has not completed their analysis of what the cost savings will be. A lot of the ultimate savings will depend on whether employees who currently do not take Town insurance decide that this is a better option for them than their current coverage. S. Pierog said there are less than ten employees on the Town side that opt out of town insurance. She believes there will be some additional savings even if all opt in. The State Partnership Plan premiums came in slightly lower than expected for health insurance, however slightly higher than expected for dental and vision coverage. Overall, there will probably be a decrease in insurance costs to the Town. She added the Town has offered a \$700 stipend to employees to opt out of the Town's insurance and some employees, single and under the age of 26, may opt to stay on their parents' health insurance plan.

J. Rupert said open enrollment is May 10-24.

K. Gourley said there is also an unknown about employees who have spouses that may have lost health insurance over the year.

S. Pierog responded, from an insurance perspective, if your spouse was employed, became unemployed and lost their health insurance, this becomes a qualifying life event for an employee to elect into the Town's plan without waiting for open enrollment. She said the Town has not seen any of that on their side. She expects the number for savings over what is currently in the asked for budget, on the Town side, to be a minimum of somewhere around \$50,000.

Superintendent Heckt said she should have more information after the BOE meeting on Thursday.

R. Tuthill asked when someone switches from individual to family insurance, does their contribution raise. Superintendent Heckt responded the cost share remains the same, but the cost of the plan goes up, so their actual cost goes up, but so does the board's.

C. Danna asked for clarification of the scheduling situation. His understanding is, if the referendum passes and the board establishes the mil rate, but later the information about additional monies becomes available, that mil rate is set. If the budget does not pass the board may end up having changes available if additional funds become available before the next referendum.

R. Tuthill asked if it is correct that, at referendum, the Town is establishing an expenditure level. If the Town gets revenues or reduced costs after the referendum, the board can adjust the mil rate down but still have to produce the same amount of revenue.

E. Bradley expanded on this and said he is correct that, at referendum, the Town is approving the expenditures number. If the referendum were to fail, the board can adjust the expenditures number down. If the board has more information because the Town has additional savings, that is an easy way to bring the numbers down and then it goes to the next referendum. Based on the expenditures number that passes referendum the board then determines what the revenue number, the mil rate, will be; what tax number the Town needs to balance that budget and determine the mil rate from there.

S. Pierog recommended the board postpone setting the mill rate as long as they can in the event more information that becomes available about the health insurance cost. The swing has the potential to be very significant and also has the potential to not be beneficial at all, especially on the BOE side. She reminded the board, that should the budget fail at referendum, the board cannot adjust revenues. The board can adjust the amount of surplus that is applied against the mil rate and can adjust expenditures.

Discussion followed on postponing setting the mil rate to the end of May and still allow enough time for tax bills to be printed and sent out on time.

R. Tuthill asked for confirmation from S. Pierog that the board cannot present to the townspeople that the town has additional revenues if there is a second referendum and that will color the discussion the board will have when they decide on a level of expenditures.

S. Pierog said the only thing the board can change is the contribution from fund balance to make the mil rate. She added the board can consider all the revenues at their disposal in adjusting the mil rate. However, what if effects is the amount of contribution the board assigns to balance the budget.

E. Bradley reported the Town was notified on Friday there will be a cut in state revenues of approximately \$47,939, so that is another revenue number the board will have to lower. On the plus side, she said one thing the board can do is at the May 6, 2021 meeting, take a look at where we stand with this year's revenues and, if the Town has brought in additional revenues that would flow into next year's budget and might offset some of the \$47,000 cut.

3.b Consider and Possibly Act on FY 2022 Proposed Budget Revenues: No action was taken.

3.c Budget Calendar: The members reviewed the budget calendar. No changes were made.

4. New Business
- 4.a Consider and Possibly Act on Ballot Question: No action taken.
5. Adjournment: E. Bradley adjourned the special meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Next Meetings:

May 6, 2021 – Special Meeting  
May 10, 2021 - Special Meeting (if necessary)

Other Important Dates:

May 10, 2021 – BOF must adopt the budget on or before this date  
May 18, 2021 – Budget Referendum

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald, Board Clerk

*Linda H. McDonald.*