

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 8, 2022 – 7:15 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM &
TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER RD, BOLTON
MINUTES**

Board of Finance Members Present: Chairman Emily Bradley, Vice-Chair Robert Munroe, Charles Danna Jr., Mather Clarke, Alex Rivera, Kristen Gourley, and Ross Lally.

Board of Selectmen Members Present: First Selectmen Pam Sawyer, Interim Town Administrator Jim Rupert, Susan Pike, and Robert Morra.

Board of Education Members Present: Superintendent Kristin Heckt

Staff Present: Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins and Board Clerk Ashleigh Johnson.

- 1) **Call to Order:** E. Bradley called this meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

- 2) **Public Participation:** E. Bradley called for public participation and asked R. Lally or if anyone else heard any input from the voters. A. Gordon mentioned the Town Bulletin needs to be addressed to remind people to vote, and possibly be updated. She also said that it would be helpful to give more details about the budget, contact townspeople to see if they would be willing to put voting signs in their yards, making the budget less confusing for townspeople, and said people mentioned being upset about voting at the church and recommended possibly explaining why people have to vote at the church. E. Bradley mentions that historically, the number of no votes through referendums remain close to the same, but more people begin to vote in later referendums with a yes vote. A. Gordon mentioned people wanted to know what was going to be cut, so they would know what to vote for. C. Danna adds that he wished that our townspeople would come out and vote on all of the referendums and not just decide to vote at the last ones, because even a no vote is a non-vote.

- 3) **Ongoing Business:**
 - a. **Discussion on 2023 Revenues & Expenditures:**

E. Bradley began this discussion by stating the mill rates proposed at all of the referendums thus far, which include 40.59 mills for the Public Hearing, 40.53 mills for the 1st referendum, and 40.27 mills for the 2nd referendum. She stated that we have to make further reductions and asked the Board what they think we should reduce. R. Munroe asked what happened in the last meeting, since he missed the meeting. E. Bradley let him know the reduction was \$100,000, \$40,000 from the Town and

\$60,000 from Board of Education. K. Heckt announced that they are down to \$55,000 in the hole in regards to insurance, stating they aren't fully staffed yet so it could be an issue or a non-issue and some other staff are planning to leave as well. A. Rivera states that he believes that whatever cut we make tonight, should unfortunately be from the Board of Education. E. Bradley made a comment that we need to be funding the schools, because our kids and students get a great education. K. Gourley recommended a \$22,000 cut to Board of Education since the amount they were short decreased by that amount. K. Heckt announced that she wanted everyone to keep in mind that they are more than likely going to be in the hole when it comes to special education funding. C. Danna agrees that it should be taken from BOE to show that we've made an incentive to decrease the budget. The Board discussed having a bit more information on the ballot so that taxpayers would know what they are voting on.

R. Munroe MOVED a \$41,000 cut in the BOE budget with a 40.17 mill rate. A. Rivera SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES unanimously 6:0:0.

b. Consider and possibly act on: Ballot Question:

K. Gourley MOVED to approve "Shall the Annual Budget for the Town of Bolton, Connecticut for the fiscal year 2023 as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of \$23,517,598 be adopted?" R. Lally SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES unanimously 6:0:0.

c. Consider and possibly act on: Setting the mill rate for FY2023:

Cannot address this until the budget passes.

d. Consider and possibly act on: Additional meeting date:

The next referendum is June 21, 2022. The next regular meeting is June 22, 2022 at 7:15 P.M. and we will also discuss the referendum from the day prior.

4) New Business:

a. Consider and possibly act on: Motor Vehicle mill rate:

E. Bradley asked the Board if they would like to keep the Motor Vehicle mill rate at the cap of 32.46 mills or if they would like to lower it.

R. Munroe MOVED a 32.46 mill rate for Motor Vehicle. K.Gourley SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES 6:1:0.

5) **Adjournment:** E. Bradley adjourned this meeting at 8:56 P.M.

Next Meetings:

Other Important Dates:

Respectfully submitted by Ashleigh N. Johnson, Board Clerk

Ashleigh N. Johnson

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