

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 22, 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, and Robert Morra.

Board of Education Members Present: Superintendent Kristin Heckt and Rhea Klein.

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

Others Present: Nick Lavigne from Community Voice Channel (CVC)

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

2) **Public Participation:**

E. Bradley called for public participation and Laura Edwards, 93 Volpi Rd, mentioned she heard the frustration on the previous BOF meeting about not knowing why people were voting one way or another. She mentioned that she went on the website to find a way to communicate why she voted what she did, and there was no email address to contact someone on the BOF. E. Bradley said she will be looking into this issue. Laura Edwards says it would be helpful to have the BOE include a packet to see what will be discussed. She also mentions that in the budget the narratives don't match the numbers, saying that the BOE had an increase of 2.26% instead of a 2.62% increase. R. Munroe responded to Laura Edwards stating that he believes that BOE is not required to provide line items to the town (by statute he believes). She responded by stating that the taxpayers won't know what "as presented" would be referring to unless they provide more details or add on the packet of what will be discussed. J. Collins states that the issue Laura Edwards seen in the BOE increase was the original ask. R. Lally said that while he was moderating at the polls taxpayers commented that with inflation they don't feel the increase in the budget is very affordable. R. Lally invited those people to the BOF meetings to announce their concerns to the Board. E. Bradley then went over comments and concerns on the Budget that were posted on Facebook.

3) **Approval of Minutes:**

E. Bradley asked the Board if they would be okay with postponing the approval of the minutes to another meeting, as they have a lot to discuss. R. Munroe MOVED to approve to move the five meeting minutes to a future meeting. R. Lally SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSED 6:0:0.

a. April 21, 2022 Regular Meeting:

b. May 5, 2022 Special Meeting:

c. May 19, 2022 Regular Meeting:

d. May 25, 2022 Special Meeting:

e. June 8, 2022 Special Meeting:

4) Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a. Tax Collection Summary:

E. Bradley presented the Tax Collection summary, which includes a \$17,972,583.55 net collection as of May 31, 2022, and asked if anyone had questions, comments, or concerns, but there were no comments.

b. Town Update:

E. Bradley presented the Revenue statement, asking if there were any surprises that anyone would like to speak about. K. Gourley questioned if we needed to worry about the 66.63% collection to revised forecast for the town. J. Collins says that we don't need to worry, and that we did receive everything we were going to get with no problems, and we did receive an additional \$14,000 from FEMA for the FEMA grant for the storm back in August 2019, which isn't included in the presented totals.

E. Bradley then presented expenditures asking if anyone would like to share. J. Rupert explained that for the Fire Marshal budget they allocated \$6,000 for Capital Improvement because we have a brush truck being purchased with the FEMA grant and we were able to find money in the Fire Marshal budget to cover that. He then said the waste collection has a shortfall of about \$15,000, but we have or will be moving money around to make sure this is covered and said the shortfall is due to the cost increase.

c. Board of Education Update:

E. Bradley presented the Board of Education updates and asked if there were any questions. R. Munroe commented on the BOE salary and wages under expense, saying everyone should be cognoscente about how much they have unexpended previously, and that he believes the number this year will be higher. E. Bradley mentioned that the positions that aren't filled, have different varying wages and to keep that in mind. The Board then began a discussion on how teachers are leaving Bolton due to higher pay elsewhere.

d. Other:

5) Ongoing Business:

a. Discussion on FY2023 Revenues & Expenditures:

E. Bradley began by stating the last mill rate of 40.17 mills which failed by 359 yes's and 406 no's. The first referendum reductions were \$100,000 (\$40,000 to the Town and \$60,000 to the Board of Education) and the second referendum reduction was \$41,000 to the BOE, with a total of \$141,000 in reductions. If you include the Health insurance that is underfunded, that leaves a \$42,000 reduction for the Town and a \$158,000 reduction to the BOE for a total of \$200,000 in reductions all together. The Board began to discuss possibilities for the new mill rate and reductions. P. Sawyer recalls a taxpayer saying that they were not voting for this until it comes down below 40 mills.

R. Munroe MOVED to approve a \$40,000 cut (\$30,000 cut to the BOE and a \$10,000 BOS) with a 40.07 mill rate. A. Rivera SECONDED. K. Gourley then asked if the Board thinks that this is a large enough cut to get this budget passed stating we are spending a lot per referendum. R. Morra agreed that he doesn't believe that the budget will pass unless it's under 40 mills, such as 39.99 mills.

J. Collins figured the numbers as \$71,000 cut would be a 39.99 mill rate. R. Munroe AMENDS his motion to approve a \$71,000 cut with a 39.99 mill rate. K. Gourley SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES 6:0:0.

E. Bradley asked the Board how they should divide the cut. E. Bradley did a 40/60 split and calculated \$24,000 cut from the town and a \$47,000 cut from Board of

Education. This changes the total reduction for the Town at \$66,000 and Board of Education has a \$205,000 (these numbers include the health insurance underfunding). K. Gourley MOVED to approve the \$24,000 reduction from the Town and a \$47,000 reduction from BOE. R. Munroe SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES 6:1:0.

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 \$23,446,598 be adopted?”. R. Munroe SECONDED. By roll call, PASSES 6:0:0.

c. Consider and possibly act on: Setting mill rate:

d. Additional meetings:

The next referendum date being proposed is July 12, 2022. If this is the date of the referendum the next BOF meeting will be July 13, 2022.

6) New Business

E. Bradley requested to add this line to the agenda. R. Munroe MOVED to approve. R. Lally SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES 6:1:0

a. Consider and possibly act on: Setting temporary mill rate:

E. Bradley says in order to get revenues, we must set a temporary mill rate, asking the Board for a proposal. K. Gourley MOVED to approve a temporary mill rate of 39.43 mills, which is our current mill rate. C. Danna SECONDED. By roll call, PASSES 6:0:0.

7) Adjournment: E. Bradley adjourned this meeting at 9:33 P.M.

Next Meetings:

Special Meeting – July 13, 2022

Regular Meeting – July 27, 2022

Other Important Dates:

Referendum – July 12, 2022

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.