

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 – 7:15 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM
Minutes**

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

Board of Education Members Present: Andrew Broneill, Diana Pagano, Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Rhea Klein, and Christopher Davey

Staff Present: Interim Town Administrator Jim Rupert, 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 called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

- 2) **Public Participation:** Upon request from the Chair, J. Rupert says nothing has been decided that is applicable to state level. State usually completes budget at the end of May or end of June. Short session this year; end of session being May 4th or 5th. J. Collins asked if we would be able to do hybrid meetings. J. Rupert said as far as he is aware, executive order is to be virtual through April 30th per last discussion.

- 3) **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. February 17, 2022 Regular Meeting:

R. Munroe MOVED to approve the February 17, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
C. Danna SECONDED. M. Clarke & R. Lally ABSTAINED.

- 4) **New Business:**
 - a. Presentation and Discussion of Board of Education's FY2023 Budget:

K. Heckt reported there is a 2.94% increase over this year's budget, with a dollar increase of \$437,752. As of March 16, 2022, K. Heckt explained that there was an unexpected situation that resulted in a \$215,000 unbudgeted amount in special education for next year. The projected total for state grants for next year for students attending state magnet and agricultural schools is \$100,946. There was a proposed \$140,000 towards FY2023 budget, but they are not sure if this will be able to happen as of now, there will be a meeting March 24, 2022 to discuss the short fall in special education for the rest of this school year. E. Bradley reports that special education budget is based on known needs of our students, and if there isn't enough money, Board of Finance covers any needed costs.

C. Danna asked about fuel for the Bolton buses. K. Heckt reported that they do a shared buy on fuel typically. J. Collins reported that they do not have a locked in price as of right now. Discussion followed on the gas prices and how it will affect our budget.

K. Gourley speaks on the electricity decrease in the budget. K. Heckt reported that they upgraded to LED lights in the high school paid for by a loan that was paid off, which is why there was a reduction.

Discussion followed on increases in prices on necessities for each department.

5) Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a. Board of Education Update:

E. Bradley reported an under expenditure for the end of February of \$200,000, which is higher than the previous month, primarily due to unfilled positions. We have expended 55% of the appropriated budget comparable to last year. K. Heckt reported that they need blinds at both schools, even though CAPA reported it was not allowable in that budget. Heckt explained how they would be coming up with funds to cover the replacement of the blinds, which they would be doing in quarters and replacing the worst ones first.

b. Tax Collection Summary:

J. Rupert reports not much change from last month's report. Some properties voted through to tax sales by the Board of Selectman to increase the tax collection due to lack of collection for 4 years or more. Discussion followed on concerns with revaluation coming in 2023 and projected 29 mill rate cap.

c. Town Update:

J. Collins reports collections on Veteran's grant is the total we will get. Collections that are paid on the telephone towers INCREASE to \$6,900. Also will continue to collect Supplemental Motor Vehicle payments. Interest may be short.

d. Other:

No overtime budgeting concerns from J Rupert. Highway has received a transfer of funds to cover overtime budgeted for them for snow storms, auto accidents, trees down, etc. J. Rupert explained other necessary transfers.

6) Ongoing Business:

a. Budget calendar:

SEE NEXT MEETINGS. Tuesday, March 22, 2022 CAPITAL & DEBT BUDGETS. Making a decision on whether to cancel the Tuesday meeting and just meet on Thursday due to preparation delays.

7) Adjournment: E. Bradley adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meetings:

March 22, 2022 – Special Meeting (THIS IS A TUESDAY)

March 24, 2022 – Special Meeting

March 29, 2022 – Special Meeting (THIS IS A TUESDAY)

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.