

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 25, 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, Charles Danna Jr., Alex Rivera, Kristen Gourley, Mather Clarke, and Ross Lally.

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

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

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

Absent: Robert Munroe

1) **Call to Order:** E. Bradley called this meeting to order at 7:18 P.M.

2) **Public Participation:** E. Bradley called for public participation, A. Rivera asked for a moment of silence for everyone who has served for our country for Memorial Day on Monday.

3) **Ongoing Business**

a. **Discussion on FY2022/2023 Revenues & Expenditures:**

K. Gourley asked if the BOE could let us know if the parents had any comments on any of the budgeting. K. Heckt said the few parents that she heard from were in support of the budget. R. Klein said she hasn't heard any talk of the budget one way or the other and was surprised of the low turnout for the voting, and didn't know if there were more strategies for the town to get people to vote. R. Morra said he heard from people that if they waited to vote for the next referendum they know it'll go down. P. Sawyer heard someone mention that they wouldn't vote for any budget unless it was under 40 mills.

E. Bradley asks the Board members for thoughts and/or directions on what our next steps should be. K. Gourley feels that the cut needs to be on the town side, just to show the consequences for the people who haven't voted and to show that we actually have made the budget as tight as possible. A. Rivera feels that we should be taking it from BOE, and not making people feel hurt. K. Gourley states it's not about making people feel hurt, she doesn't want to cut anyone's budget, its more about having a realization about their actions. E. Bradley mentions that BOE is already

\$200,000 short for benefits. K. Gourley mentioned that she doesn't want all of the cuts to be from the town, it will be from both town and BOE, but, most should come from the town, because the school is what most people move to Bolton for. R. Lally asked BOE and BOS if they might have some more money to give back. J. Rupert responded that he doesn't know as of yet, but there are a few hopeful areas that may give back some money to the budget but it may not be substantial. R. Lally adds that inland wetlands may have a small amount to give.

E. Bradley asked the Board if anyone had any suggestions on cuts to make. K. Gourley asked if E. Bradley had any examples. E. Bradley stated our current mill rate is 39.43 (proposed mill rate is 40.53), and in order to get a 40 mill rate, we would need to cut \$210,000, in order to get to a 40.27 mill rate, we would need to cut \$100,000. She proposes the 40.27 mill rate with the \$100,000 cut.

A. Rivera MOVED a \$150,000 cut with the 40.15 mill rate. R. Lally SECONDED.

E. Bradley asked how we would be cutting the budgets. K. Gourley does not feel comfortable with the \$150,000 cut. C. Danna also believes that \$150,000 is a bit high.

A. Rivera MOVED to make a percentage cut 40/60, to reduce BOE \$90,000 and Town budget \$60,000. R. Lally SECONDED. By roll call vote, motion FAILED 2:4:0.

K. Gourley MOVED for \$100,000 cut, 40.27 mill rate, with a 50/50 split. M. Clarke SECONDED. R. Lally says he would support the \$100,000 cut but not 50/50, he would prefer 40/60 split. C. Danna said he would support that. A. Rivera says \$125,000 with 50/50 split.

K. Gourley AMENDS for \$100,000 cut with a 40/60 split. C. Danna SECONDED. By roll call vote, motion CARRIED 5:1:0.

b. Consider and possibly act on: Ballot Question:

\$23,558,598 to be adopted. By roll call vote, motion CARRIED 6:0:0.

4) New Business:

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

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

E. Bradley asked if meeting on June 8, 2022 at 7:15 P.M was okay for everyone to meet. All board members were okay with this meeting date.

5) **Adjournment:** E. Bradley adjourned this meeting at 9:08 P.M.

Next Meetings:

June 7, 2022 – Referendum

June 8, 2022 – Special Meeting

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.