

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2023 – 7:15 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM &
TOWN OF BOLTON, 222 BOLTON CENTER RD, BOLTON
MINUTES**

Board of Finance Members Present: Ross Lally – Chairman, Robert Munroe – Vice Chair, Kristen Gourley, Mather Clarke, Ashley Phelan, Amanda Gordon, and Charles Danna Jr.

Board of Education Members Present: Susan Pike & Scott Rich

Staff Present: James Rupert – Town Administrator, Kristin Heckt – Superintendent, Jill Collins – Chief Financial Officer, and Ashleigh Johnson – Board Clerk

1) Call to Order: R. Lally called this meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

2) Public Participation: Patrick Kelly says our budget is not easily accessible unlike surrounding towns and would like to see line items, etc. for the proposed budget. He wants to know where the money is going. K. Heckt said BOE budget is on the BOE website. P. Kelly stated that he would like for everything to be on the same website so it's easily accessible. J. Rupert said this is a great suggestion and he will make sure it is put on the website however possible.

3) Consider and possibly act on: Resolutions to go to Town Meeting on April 18, 2023:

C. Danna MOVED to approve the resolution: “Resolved that the Town of Bolton hereby approves the allocation of \$100,000 from FY2022 surplus funds within the General Fund to the Capital Reserve account to be used for grant matches for capital projects”. R. Munroe SECONDED. The Board agrees this is a good investment for the town. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 7:0:0.

4) Ongoing Business:

a) Discussion of FY2023 Budgets (expenditures & revenues):

J. Collins presented the budget numbers thus far and what she believes we could expect for each line item. The Board discussed what they are estimating to receive in revenues.

The Board agreed to change the motor vehicle to 95% collection based on previous revenue received.

R. Lally asked BOE what information they have for give backs. K. Heckt said Special Education is still getting hit, so she still doesn't believe they will be able to give back. She did have news on insurance, which are blended rates and will reduce BOE insurance by \$70,000, but to keep in mind that they have not had open enrollment yet. She also specified that they had a reduction of \$22,910 in Diesel fuel for a total of \$92,910 total reduction in the BOE ask.

J. Rupert explained that after BOS next meeting in the beginning of May, they should have numbers, but they do not have anything yet.

b) Discussion of FY2024 Budgets (expenditures & revenues):

K. Heckt asked if the insurance funding from a while ago is still available and if it would be possible to use that money to help offset insurance increases. J. Collins explained this would have to be approved by BOS. K. Gourley is concerned that they never knew of this insurance funding. J. Collins explained that this hasn't been hidden and is an audited number. R. Lally would like to discuss the ordinance on the insurance funding. J. Rupert explained the difficulty of changing an ordinance.

J. Collins announced that educational cost sharing will go down approximately \$60,000, which is given to us by the state. C. Danna asked what this is based on. J. Collins said it is based on BOE expenditures, actual not proposed.

K. Gourley MOVED to approve the transfer of numbers J. Collins recommended for FY23 to FY24. A. Phelan SECONDED. J. Collins and J. Rupert recommended lowering prior year's collection line to \$70,000 or a little more because the Tax Collector had collected a large amount of prior year taxes of around \$50,000 from one taxpayer and that isn't to be expected every year.

R. Munroe shared his frustration on the issues with interest from the bank and the lack of information to be received. J. Collins explained to the Board about not having \$7 million in the bank at all times, which is needed to accrue interest, and that we will possibly be under that soon due to BOE balloon pay.

K. Gourley WITHDREW motion to transfer numbers from FY23 to FY24.

K. Gourley MOVED to approve amendments to FY24 budget numbers. A. Gordon SECONDED. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 7:0:0.

R. Munroe MOVED to approve the reduction of the BOE budget by \$92,910. K. Gourley SECONDED. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 7:0:0.

A. Gordon MOVED to accept the BOE budget and BOS budget and contingency fund. C. Danna SECONDED. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 7:0:0.

c) Discussion on Public Communication/Outreach:

A. Gordon and A. Phelan made suggestions for the public communication/outreach for everyone to consider. The Board shared ideas on what to remove and what to add to and change in these presentations. A. Gordon asked if BOS had what they would cut to include in the presentation like BOS presentation had, if cuts were necessary. J. Rupert said BOS is not willing to provide this information and that it's difficult to say what would be cut without an actual number, but it would probably be from services and personnel.

d) FY2024 Budget calendar:

R. Lally said our next meeting is on the 18th of April. K. Gourley reminded everyone that K. Heckt and herself will not be at the public hearing on the 25th of April.

5) Adjournment: R. Lally adjourned this meeting at 10:15 PM.

Next Meetings:

April 18, 2023 – Special Meeting (THIS IS A TUESDAY) (if necessary)

April 20, 2023 – Regular 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.

SEE ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER.