

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 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:** Chairman Ross Lally, Vice-Chair Robert Munroe, Mather Clarke, Amanda Gordon, Charles Danna Jr., Ashley Phelan, and Kristen Gourley

**Board of Selectmen Members Present:** First Selectman Pam Sawyer and Interim Town Administrator Jim Rupert (arrived at 7:23 PM)

**Board of Education Members Present:** Kristin Heckt

**Staff Present:** Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins

**Others:** Nick Lavigne CVC and Josh Hull

- 1) **Call to Order:** R. Lally called this meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.
  
- 2) **Public Participation:** R. Lally called for public participation, but there was none.
  
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:**
  - a) **December 15, 2022 Regular Meeting:**

R. Munroe MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. C. Danna SECONDED. By roll call, PASSES unanimously 6:0:0.
  
- 4) **Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:**
  - a) **Board of Education Update:**

K. Heckt discussed with the Board that BOE is projecting a budget expenditure of \$15,198,053, which is a deficit of \$39,387. The anticipated deficit is in Special Education. However she mentioned that they are still not fully staffed and they have an under expenditure in salary of \$212,000 due to this. She says she doesn't see BOE being able to give any funds back at the end of the year.

R. Munroe asked how staff is holding up with coming back after being remote due to COVID. K. Heckt expressed how great the staff is doing and mentioned all the events they were allowed to participate in.

A. Gordon asked how many positions are still unfilled. K. Heckt said four positions remain unfilled from Special Education and others.

K. Gourley asked what the BOE give back was last year. J. Collins said the unaudited amount was \$425,769. K. Heckt said to remember that they were not fully

staffed all of last year and that due to budget cuts, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade language were cut.

A. Gordon asked if K. Heckt had any schedule conflicts with the FY2024 budget calendar. K. Heckt did not have any schedule conflicts with the proposed budget calendar.

**b) Revenue Summary:**

J. Collins discussed the tax collector's collections and explained that everything is going in the right direction. C. Danna explained that we should get an increase in the amount of Supplemental taxes collected passed what we budgeted for due to motor vehicle values increasing. J. Collins explained that all other revenues are on schedule and she doesn't see any bumps in the road.

**c) Town Update:**

J. Rupert says there's nothing scary happening, but we may have to move money around through the year. The line item he is most concerned with is the Emergency management budget and says it needs to be addressed in the future to get a better budget for the state troopers.

C. Danna asked if BOE staffing issues affect the Town. J. Rupert says we are up to staff in the Town and are doing well. He notes that we did lose staff in the Senior/Social Services department and we hired a shared Assessor.

**d) Other:**

N/A.

**5) Ongoing Business:**

**a) Consider and Possibly Act on – FY2024 Budget Calendar:**

The Board discussed conflicts in their schedules for the FY2024 Budget Calendar, but said there will be a quorum on all days there are conflicts in schedule.

R. Munroe MOVED to approve the FY2024 Budget Calendar. A. Gordon SECONDED. By roll call, PASSES unanimously 6:0:0.

**6) New Business:**

**a) CAPA Update:**

K. Gourley went over the CAPA meeting update. She announced that they try to stay between 1-4 mills and that they didn't go up to 4 mills. Additional line item was added for Grant matches.

A. Gordon asked if we have ordered the modular building yet. J. Rupert said we haven't yet, that he called and we may need to bid on one, but we have more to figure out.

**b) Discussion on Public Communication/Outreach:**

R. Lally wants to get more people to vote and asked the Board for ideas on how they can do that. A. Gordon strongly recommended that we live stream the BOF meetings on Facebook or Instagram to reach more people. K. Gourley asked if they are allowed to reach out to the PTA since they have a voice, and said it will take a lot of different avenues to get more people to vote and reach more people.

R. Lally stated that most people focus on the mill rate when voting yes or no on the budget, and recommends that we state what we cut money wise and this is what happens when money is cut, so people understand what could be lost when the budget doesn't pass.

**7) Adjournment:** R. Lally adjourned this meeting at 8:53 P.M.

**Next Meetings:**

**February 16, 2023 @ 7:15 PM**

**March 16, 2023 @ 7:15 PM**

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.