

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024
*TOWN HALL/ZOOM***

Finance Committee Members Present at Town Hall and Via Zoom: Chair Ross Lally, Member Amanda Gordon, Member Rhea Klein, Member Ashley Phelan, Member Robert Munroe. Absent were Member Robert Morra and Chris Connelly

Staff Present Via Zoom: None

Others Present In Person: Selectman Rodney Fournier, Bryce Aronson

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order.

2. Public Participation

2a. Bryce Aronson, 149 Brandy Street, expressed concerns with the way things are communicated with the public regarding budget documents and annual meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

3a. April 22, 2024, Special Meeting

A. Gordon MOVED to approve the April 22, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. R. Munroe SECONDED. R. Munroe AMENDED the motion to remove R. Morra as being in attendance. A. Phelan SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0 as amended. A. Gordon MOVED to revisit Section 3a. of the April 22, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes. R. Klein SECONDED. A. Gordon requested that in Section 3a. be amended as follows “A. Gordon reported that her **estimated** mill rate currently is 32.63” and Section 3c., second bulletin point to “A. Gordon reported that the motion changed the estimated mill rate from 32.63 to 33.41 which is a decrease of 23.76% from the prior year’s mill rate of 43.82 or 10.41 decrease in mills”. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

3b. April 30, 2024, Public Hearing

A. Gordon MOVED to approve the April 30, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes with proposed changes. R. Klein SECONDED. A. Gordon requested on Page 2 that the following be changed to “A. Gordon replied that there was 9.5% increase in the mill rate for the budget” and on Page 2 “A. Gordon explained that the Town has locked contracts with vendors and therefore **can** predict costs”. R. Lally stated, in the last paragraph, Cheryl Udan’s last name should be changed to Udin. R. Lally requested the discussion on the future school system be amended to “R. Lally stated that the future of the school system in Bolton will need to be discussed soon”. R. Lally requested the following statement from R. Morra in the last paragraph be removed from the Minutes. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0 with the noted modifications.

3c. April 30, 2024, Special Meeting

R. Munroe MOVED to approve the April 30, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes. A. Gordon SECONDED. R. Lally requested that on the seconded page, Section 4b. on the budget calendar be amended to “R. Lally announced that the FY2024/2025 budget numbers must be filed with the Town Clerk by May 10, 2024, meaning we do not have much time left to work on the budget”. A. Gordon further amended 4b. to read as “announce that the FY24-FY25 budget”. R. Lally amended Section 4c. to read: “R. Lally stated the reason for this action is to place \$400,000 in Capital in a line item by striking “without placing it”. A. Gordon noted under Section 5a. should read “the Committee discussed that Bolton Lakes Sewer was not included in RFQ. J. Rupert confirmed that it was not necessary according to bid ordinances and under the bid threshold”. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

4. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports

4a. Board of Education Update

4b. Tax Collection Summary

4c. Town Update

4d. Other

5. Ongoing Business

5a. Act on FY2024 Revised Revenues

A. Gordon MOVED to approve the revised FY2024 Revenues as presented in the amount of \$24,280,105. R. Munroe SECONDED. A. Gordon clarified that these are the original numbers discussed not included in the extra \$90,000ish that is potentially there after J. Collin’s latest revised numbers that the Committee opted not to include. R. Lally also clarified it does not include the extra monies from the Board of Education. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

6. New Business

6a. Discussion of State & Federal Compliance Audit

A. Gordon MOVED to table the discussion of State & Federal Compliance Audit to the next meeting. A. Phelan SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

6b. Discussion on next meeting date

A. Gordon MOVED to schedule a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. at a location to be determined based on availability and for the agenda to be set for the purpose of discussing the results of the referendum and to potentially set the mill rate and budget reductions. R. Klein SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

6c. Feedback on Proposed budget

7. Adjournment: A. Gordon MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. R. Klein SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Mary J. Johnston

Mary J. Johnston

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR CORRECTIONS TO THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.

SEE ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER.