

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall/ZOOM*
JANUARY 18, 2024 – 7:15 P.M.**

Finance Committee Members Present: Ross Lally – Chairman, Robert Munroe – Vice Chair, Ashley Phelan, Amanda Gordon, Rhea Klein, and Robert Morra (arrived at 7:25 PM).

Staff Present: Jill Collins – Chief Financial Officer, Rodney Fournier – First Selectman, Ashleigh Johnson – Board Clerk

Board of Education Members Present: Kristin Heckt – Superintendent

Others Present: Nick Lavigne - CVC

1) **Call to Order:** R. Lally called this meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

2) **Public Participation:** None.

3) **Approval of Minutes:**

a) **December 21, 2023 – Regular Meeting:**

In attendance section, “Finance Committee Members Present In- Person: ...Ashley ~~Phalen~~
Phelan”.

A. Gordon MOVED to approve the minutes with corrections. A. Phelan SECONDED. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

4) **Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:**

a) **BOE Budget Update:**

K. Heckt announced that they are 39% expended compared to 41% last year. She reminded everyone that Special Education changes can go up or down at any time. She anticipates salaries and wages to increase due to unfilled positions. R. Munroe expressed concern for what he estimates to be \$1 million unspent to be returned by BOE. K. Heckt reminded him that the teachers haven’t been paid their full salaries yet and she doesn’t anticipate having a \$1 million give back.

b) **Town Update:**

1) Revenue Summaries:

J. Collins announced that as of 12/31/2023, our current year levy percentage collected for FY24 is 100.77%, motor vehicle is 96.27%, and we have begun collecting supplemental motor vehicle taxes. J. Collins presented other revenues and stated there are not any troubling areas.

2) Expenditure Summaries:

J. Collins stated expenditures are all on target except for waste collections. A. Gordon asked if we should be concerned about elections. R. Lally doesn't believe we should be concerned as it will depend on the number of referendums needed and stated that last year only one referendum was needed to pass the budget.

3) Transfers:

The transfers were presented to the committee. There were no questions or concerns from the committee.

5) Discussion

a) How committee members work together as a team when presenting and reviewing the new budget:

R. Lally explained how BOF worked together previously when presenting and reviewing the new budget and asked if the Finance Committee would like to keep it the same or change things.

A. Phelan recommended to be clear on the purpose of the meetings and not meet if we don't have all the information needed for the meetings. R. Morra recommended members of the other boards to be more involved to be able to answer questions from the public. A. Gordon recommended working on communication with the public and possibly creating some kind of subcommittee to work on that and discussing policies for the committee. K. Heckt recommended having a discussion on what this looks like. A. Gordon recommended a dedicated plan to tackle this. The Committee recommended adding budget calendar discussion and subcommittee planning to the agenda for the next meeting.

5) Adjournment:

R. Lally adjourned this meeting at 8:44 PM.

Next Meetings:

February 15, 2024

March 21, 2024

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.