

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting with members of the Board of Finance and Board of Education on November 2, 2016 at the Town Hall with First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion and Sandra Pierog; Board of Finance members Robert Munroe, Morris Silverstein and Emily Bradley; Board of Education members Elizabeth Krueger, Andrew Broneill, Alison Romkey and Scott Rich; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, and Superintendent Kristin Heckt.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morra called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

2. DISCUSSION ON BUDGET AND RELATED ITEMS FOR CURRENT YEAR, NEXT YEAR/ AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS

A. REVENUES

Ms. Collins shared a report on unaudited FY16 cash surplus and FY17 and FY18 revenues. For current year \$900,224 of cash surplus was used towards funding the budget. Unaudited, \$528,510 additional was available and will be used to fund the FY18 budget. Tax collections for current year indicate the budgeted 98% collections rate has been achieved. The Board of Education reported an increase of 4 Columbia students above their projection which equates to a tuition revenue increase of \$9,420. To date, the state has cut aid to Bolton by \$89,057 with an additional \$20 million in cuts to municipal aid still to be made. Concerns for next year include state funding, number of Columbia students, grand list reduction due to crumbling foundations and current shortfall of approximately \$350,269 for Bolton Center School Capital projects.

Ms. Heckt reported a state reduction in Choice funding by \$112,000 current year. These funds paid for a reading teacher. The Board of Education is able to absorb this Choice reduction in its operating budget due to surplus funds in the health insurance line item.

B. EXPENDITURES

Ms. Stille reported that a shortfall is expected in the Unemployment Compensation line item which covers school and town staff.

C. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT: PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR BONDING

Mr. Morra reported that repairs/improvements at Bolton Heritage Farm barn are progressing and the repair work on the tennis courts has been completed.

The group discussed the Bolton Center School (BCS) projects including the process and estimates which resulted in a shortfall of \$350,000 at this time. Mr. Rich explained that the estimates came forward through CAPA and had not been updated. Mr. Eremita stated that ADA transition strips on the sidewalks, parking lot line striping and prevailing wage were all necessary but not included in the estimates. Mr. Morra, Mr. Eremita and Mr. Munroe all stated that the BOE needs to involve Town staff in all proposed projects to fully vet the project and its costs prior to bringing the projects forward for funding. Also discussed was the fact that the Temporary Public Building Commission does not set project budgets nor do they oversee repair/replacement projects. Their oversight of an improvement project occurs after funding has been secured. Town staff annually revise

the cost for the five year capital list. Town and BOE staff and officials will meet again to ensure the estimates for BCS projects are complete.

Mr. Eremita stated that Bolton should have one Facilities Management person. The Town owns all buildings and land and staff do projects and estimating frequently. The primary mission of schools is as educators. This should be implemented as staffing changes occur.

The conversion to natural gas in several town buildings was also discussed. Funds will be needed for boiler conversions or replacements, connections within buildings and oil tank disposals.

Mr. Morra discussed the next priority capital projects as being the Town Hall and BCS roof and rear wall repair (roof due 2022). Many other projects including fields still exist. Ms. Heckt asked about priority of the fields. Mr. Morra responded that we need to address the current infrastructure first and hoped the BOE would agree the roof had priority.

D. DEBT SERVICE

The current approved projects for bonding totals \$1,360,000 plus the shortfall of \$350,000 (still to be reviewed and approved) which equals \$1,710,000. This needs to be bonded as one amount within the next couple of months since we have already incurred some of the costs. There are costs associated with every bonding and the size of the bond must be large enough to attract bidders. This bonding will replace the reduction in debt services next year as the BCS addition is paid off. The sewer may require an increase in debt service.

3. SHARED SERVICES

Previously discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:09 P.M. with tentative data for the next year set as October 24, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Officer

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.