

**Bolton Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
February 15, 2018- 7:15
Town Hall**

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Richard Tuthill, Robert Galle, and Emily Bradley

Members Excused: Vice Chair Robert Flowers, Robert DePietro, and Matthew Maulucci

Others Present: Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille and Finance Director Jill Collins

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by R. Munroe at 7:23 pm.
- 2) **Public Participation:** No public comment.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **January 18, 2018 Special Meeting:** R. Galle moved to approve the special meeting minutes from January 18, 2018 as presented. R. Tuthill seconded. Motion carried 4:0:0.
- 4) **Correspondence:** None.
- 5) **Elected Official and Town Staff Reports**
 - a. **Revenue Summary:** J. Collins shared that the Town is on track with tax collection. J. Collins explained that this year's numbers cannot be compared to last year because the tax is now being accounted for individually. The Board discussed the motor vehicle tax collection. This year is also unusual because the bills went out in November and were not due until January.

The ECS grant was discussed. The revenue number is a reflection of waiting on payments. J. Collins explained that this grant is paid out in a quarter, quarter, half format. J. Collins also explained that federal grants frequently come in late. The Town is expecting a further ECS reduction of \$37,613 by the state because of special education cost estimates. For the Pilot: State Property, the revenue received is all the money the Town is going to get.

R. Galle suggested that instead of "Revised Budget" the column should be labeled "Revised Forecast". R. Galle also suggested "Adopted Budget" be used instead of "Original Budget".

J. Stille shared that the numbers are as accurate as they can be right now based on the information the Town has. R. Galle questioned the Total General Fund Revenue variance of just over 1.7 million. J. Stille reiterated that the Revised Budget is what the Town truly expects to occur.

J. Stille stated that a portion of Misc. Revenue will not be coming in because the Town of Columbia did not renew their contract for building official services this year. However, the towns of Ashford and Willington both purchased more hours and two other towns are possibly interested in purchasing services.

J. Stille also shared that Bolton is continuing to pursue shared services. She recently attended a meeting in Tolland with about ten to fifteen other towns to talk about services that can be shared. The group came up with a whole list of potentials to discuss.

R. Munroe summarized that Bolton is in a relatively good position at this point. In response, J. Stille shared that the Town is not expecting its second Town Aid Road payment this year or next. However, as this money does not go into the general fund, it will not impact the Board of Finance discussions.

b. Town Update: J. Stille shared that the expenses are up to date. The Town is currently at 49.54% expensed as compared to 49.67% in FY17, 50.46% in FY16, and 50.14% in FY15. The difference in the number from previous years is reflecting that the Town has not made any auditing payments yet this year and had made payments by this time in previous years. After that payment is accounted for, the percentage is the same as other years.

c. Board of Education Update: R. Munroe spoke with Superintendent Heckt to get a report on the school. R. Munroe shared that the school still has not made any departmental transfers of more than \$10,000. There may be considerable issues to come in regards to special education. R. Munroe is particularly interested in the student support services and special education transportation numbers as the projected expenditures for the year show an increase, yet the current expenditures don't seem to be in line with that. R. Munroe commented that one of the factors impacting the school's budget is the Excess Cost Reimbursement. The current number is based on 70% reimbursement, but historically this number has been between 80-83%.

6) Ongoing Business

a. FY2018 Budget Status: The budget has already been discussed. J. Stille shared that the governor's budget does not have any huge cuts for next year. Hopefully the state will act in a short period of time, which will give the Town some additional information to judge things off of.

R. Munroe predicted that next year's cuts will be less. He commented that with a recent unexpected addition to the state rainy-day fund, he believes the state budget should wrap up quickly and will be made as painless as possible for towns.

b. Status Report on High School Building Project: J. Stille stated that there is nothing new to report.

c. Shared Services: J. Stille shared that Columbia and Bolton baseball teams are going to work together to try to combine leagues.

d. FY2019 Budget Calendar: J. Stille recommended that the Board of Finance add two additional meetings to the calendar in case they are needed- May 10, 2018 and May 24, 2018. E. Bradley made a motion to add 5/10 and 5/24 as special meetings, to be held if necessary. R. Tuthill seconded. All in favor, vote 4:0:0.

E. Bradley made a motion to adjourn. R. Galle seconded. Vote 3:0:1. In favor, E. Bradley, R. Galle, and R. Munroe. R. Tuthill abstained. Meeting adjourned 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Rupert
Recording Secretary

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