

**Bolton Board of Finance
Special Meeting
March 22, 2018 – 7:15 PM
Town Hall**

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Vice Chair Robert Flowers, Robert DePietro, Richard Tuthill, Emily Bradley, and Matthew Maulucci (excused at 7:35)

Members Excused: Robert Galle

Others Present: Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Finance Director Jill Collins, and First Selectman Sandra Pierog

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:17pm by R. Munroe.
- 2) **Public Participation:** No public comment.
- 3) **Presentation and Discussion of Board of Selectmen's FY2019 General Government, Capital & Debt Budget:**

S. Pierog and J. Stille presented the General Government FY 19 budget request to the Board. The two areas of reduction, Town Building Operations and Senior Services, were offset by increases in other areas. Several categories, primarily the board and commissions along with recreation services, had no change.

Professional and technical services increased largely due to revaluation. Everyone in Town got a postcard in November/December and those who did not return their postcards or who had changes will require an inspection by the revaluation firm. The increase includes \$30,000 to cover the cost of the inspections and second year of the contract.

There have also been increases in wages for Town staff. The majority of employees are union members. Health insurance costs have increased to a maximum of 11%. We continue to work to lower costs.

Police Protection has a \$60,000 increase, which includes 100% cost for two resident troopers. Current year the Town only had to pay 85%. The exact percent is not known until the budget passes. The troopers are also in wage negotiation with a 3% estimate wage increase, but with no estimate on benefits.

R. Tuthill asked if the Board of Selectman has considered a regional policing arrangement. S. Pierog shared that she and J. Stille are in the process of looking into regional policing. However, based on very early considerations it does not appear as if regional policing would be less expensive.

Fire Marshal payroll has increased as the Town considers options to fill the position due to a retirement. In review of some other communities, our salary was low.

Highway Department is up about \$30,000 due to the cut in Town Aid Road. The Town Aid Road grant cut was \$100,000. Even with the increase paving will not get done. The Town needs to do at least three miles of road each year in order to stay on schedule.

The Library increase is due to wages. The Building and Land Use is due to wages and contracts.

Employee Fringe Benefits reflect an increase in health insurance as well as increased unemployment. J. Stille shared that she is continuing to try to further negotiate down health care. The Town was at a 12% cap, the cap was dropped down to 11%. J. Stille will continue to explore options for health insurance as part of other communities. The Town cannot make any changes for this July 1st but will look to do something in a year from now.

The Board of Finance asked about for clarification on the capital budget request. J. Stille shared that the capital budget includes two pieces- capital reserve and capital improvement. The capital reserve is by Town Charter a single item that has \$10,000 in value and 10 years in useful life. Capital improvement is under the Board of Selectman's control. It acts a mechanism for handling capital items that do not qualify for capital reserve without dismantling the budget. Money stays in the capital reserve until it is spent or an action is taken to move it.

The Board of Finance thanked the Town for its budget and presentation.

- 4) **Review of Budget Calendar:** R. Munroe brought the next meeting on Wednesday March 28 to the Board's attention.
- 5) **Adjournment:** R. Munroe adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Rupert
Recording Secretary

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