

**Bolton Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2019-7:15 p.m.
Town Hall**

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Vice Chair Emily Bradley, Robert DePietro, Robert Flowers, Matthew Maulucci and Richard Tuthill

Members Excused: Robert Galle

Others Present: Finance Director Jill Collins, Superintendent of Schools Kristin Heckt, Board of Education Chair Liz Krueger and First Selectman Sandra Pierog

1. Call to Order: Chairman R. Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

2. Public Participation: No public comment

3. Discussion Re: FY 2020 Budgets (Revenue & Expenditures):

At the close of last week's meeting a gap remained of \$306,244. Each of the Board members presented their positions.

R. Munroe feels there is a stated desire by the BOE to move one and one half positions from the Choice grant to the general fund. If this occurs, additional funds will be needed from the BOS. Grants can be uncertain but he views the Choice program as a tuition program and does not feel that the program will end soon. An effort that needs to be applauded is shared services. He is looking at possible saving in electricity costs. The \$226,000 contingency fund should remain intact. He feels that the BOS budget can be reduced as well. He hopes to have a finished budget ready for April 22nd.

R. Flowers asked the BOE about Choice. K. Heckt responded that there are still issues that surround the program and new towns have been added to the program. This may decrease the number of students coming to Bolton. R. Flowers felt that both boards have done a good job of putting together a budget. He prefers to not raise taxes if possible but taxes may need to go up to provide adequate services.

E. Bradley stated that from the taxpayer side, everyone is concerned about their taxes. She agreed with the concern about keeping taxes the same while providing adequate services. She feels that both boards have been creative through the year in controlling spending.

R. Maulucci echoed the statements of R. Flowers and E. Bradley.

R. DePietro stated that he agreed with R. Galle's opinion that was stated in last week's meeting. He feels that the Board needs to take a more aggressive approach to controlling spending.

R. Tuthill stated that he is on the aggressive side of controlling spending. He wants a zero increase for both boards. Why has money been given back in the past two years? The compound average growth rate over the past ten years has been greater than the rate of inflation. S. Pierog noted that on the BOS side it is difficult to change line items due to the Town charter. Wages, utilities, benefits, and police are the top expenses.

R. Munroe noted that the Board of Finance is not meant to micromanage the boards. The boards have been successful in controlling spending and should not be punished for their efforts. He feels that there has been a fair and even exchange of ideas.

4. Consider and Act on: FY 2020 Proposed Budget for Public Hearing (Possible Action)

No action.

5. Review of Budget Calendar

R. Flowers made a motion to cancel the April 18, 2019 meeting. R. Tuthill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Next Meetings:

April 22, 2019 Special Meeting-Town Hall-if necessary (THIS IS A MONDAY)

**April 30, 2019 PUBLIC HEARING-BOLTON HIGH SCHOOL-STUDENTS COMMONS
7:00 P.M. (THIS IS A TUESDAY)**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Brand

Leslie Brand
Recording Secretary

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