

**Bolton Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2019-7:15 p.m.
Town Hall**

Members Present: Chairman Robert Munroe, Vice Chair Emily Bradley, Robert DePietro, Robert Flowers, Matthew Maulucci (arrived at 7:31 p.m.) and Richard Tuthill

Members Excused: Robert Galle

Others Present: Finance Director Jill Collins, Superintendent of Schools Kristin Heckt, Board of Education Chair Liz Krueger, Board of Education members Christopher Davey, Ann Decker and Scott Rich, First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Town Administrative Officer Joyce Stille and Journal Inquirer reporter Emily Brindley

1. Call to Order: Chairman R. Munroe called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

2. Public Participation: K. Heckt noted that the strategic plan for the schools will be developed soon. She would like to have BOF members participate with the BOE.

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

J. Collins updated the difference to \$294,120. Tax revenue and an ECS receipt were the factors in the change. R. Munroe summarized the discussion from the last meeting. Three members believed in a flat budget for both the BOS and BOE. The other four members have come to a proposed solution to balance the budget. They reviewed the contingency fund and feel that it should not be used as a buffer for unknown expenses. R. Flowers made a motion to adopt a revised budget based on the following recommendations: BOE reduce their budget ask by \$194,120, BOS reduce their budget ask by \$50,000 and decrease contingency fund by \$50,000. Capital improvement budget stays as is. E. Bradley seconded.

Discussion ensued. R. Tuthill questioned the \$500,000 in Choice expenditures. K. Heckt responded that the funds are primarily used for transportation, supplies and a dean of students. R. Tuthill asked if a list of Choice expenditures (\$500,000) will be submitted to anyone other than the BOE. He feels that this number should be transparent to the taxpayers. He supports the program but not the hidden nature of the expenses. K. Heckt noted that per state statute, full disclosure is not necessary and she has consulted with numerous attorneys who are in agreement. K. Heckt will forward the statute to R. Tuthill for his review.

J. Stille noted that the shared services portion of the budget has not been discussed. A signed agreement has not been finalized although it has been approved by the BOS and BOE. The BOE noted that the \$194,120 decrease in their budget would result in the loss of positions and programs. S. Pierog noted that the \$150,000 reduction in the BOS budget would result in reduced town services. If the BOS budget is increased by \$85,000 for shared services the net increase would be \$35,000 based on the above motion. The BOE budget would decrease by \$85,000. E. Bradley made a revised motion to move \$85,000 from BOE to BOS for shared services. M. Maulucci seconded. Motion passed 5:0:1 with R. Tuthill abstaining. E. Bradley moved to cut the BOS budget by \$50,000, reduce the contingency fund by \$135,000 and cut the BOE budget by \$109,120. R. Flowers seconded. Motion carried 5:1:0 with R. Tuthill opposed.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports

a. Board of Education Budget Update:

K. Heckt noted that they were 67% expended-same as last year. Salaries are a moving target.

b. Revenue Summary:

J. Collins presented the revised the tax revenue figures. Current levy is 99.89%. Last year was 99.9%. No significant change.

c. Town Budget Update

Town expenses remain stable. J. Stille noted that the budget transfers are line items within departments.

6. Discussion and Action re: FY2020 Proposed Budget for presentation at Public Hearing

See above

7. Old Business

a. Shared Services

Discussed above.

b. Budget Calendar

Scheduled meetings as noted below.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Meetings:

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

May 9, 2019 Special Meeting 7:15 p.m. Town Hall (if necessary)

May 10, 2019 Board of Finance must adopt the budget on or before this date

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.