

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 23, 2023 – 7:15 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM &
TOWN OF BOLTON, 222 BOLTON CENTER RD, BOLTON
MINUTES**

Board of Finance Members Present: Ross Lally – Chairman, Robert Monroe – Vice Chair, Kristen Gourley, Mather Clarke, Ashley Phelan, Amanda Gordon, and Charles Danna Jr.

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Pam Sawyer – First Selectman

Board of Education Members Present: Rhea Klein, Diana Pagano, Christopher Davey, Susan Pike, and Andrew Broneill

Staff Present: James Rupert – Town Administrator, Kristin Heckt – Superintendent, Jill Collins – Chief Financial Officer, and Ashleigh Johnson – Board Clerk

1) Call to Order: R. Lally called this meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

2) Public Participation: R. Lally called for public participation. K. Heckt announced awards won for the robotics competition for the schools.

3) New Business:

a. Discussion of Financial Statements:

A. Phelan presented a few questions about financial statements. She asked if the BOF approves financials or if they certify them. J. Collins said they are submitted to the state and signed by herself, J. Rupert and others. A. Phelan asked if the missing component part of the Auditor's report will change in the future. J. Collins said unless the Fire Department exclusions that are not provided to the Auditor changes, it will not change.

A. Gordon asked if the Fire Department has control over what they spend their EIN money on. J. Rupert said that we do not have control over their funds from their EIN.

The Fire Department does not give the town a report of what they spend their money on, EIN or Town funding. The equipment, etc is transparent because they do have to go through finance and J. Rupert for those to be signed off on. A. Gordon asked what their reasoning is behind not accounting for how they are spending the money. J. Collins said they just refuse to give them the financials.

4) Ongoing Business:

a. Discussion of FY2023 Budgets (expenditures & revenues):

R. Lally asked about the trailer for office space and if it was coming out of Capital expenditures since it is now being rented. J. Collins said the lease will come out of Capital still. A. Gordon asked how that is going to affect us in the long run. J. Rupert is unsure as of now, they haven't solidified or identified needs for space. The Town Charter won't allow them to enter into any lease longer than 3 years. K. Gourley asked when this will be completed and when we have to start making the payments. J. Rupert said he hopes to have everyone moved in by July 1st and he suspects we will have to pay some sort of down payment, delivery cost, and final costs when done, but currently he doesn't have all of the terms of the lease.

b. Discussion of FY2024 Budgets (expenditures & revenues):

R. Lally asked what is being proposed to enhance voter access. J. Rupert said there is no specific money in the budget for this. He shared that they do have ideas for a landing and slope walk way, and they are also looking to make changes at Herrick Park.

R. Lally asked if J. Rupert had any information about the fire truck. J. Rupert said they are trying to do it this fiscal year, and they are moving forward under this expectation.

K. Gourley asked K. Heckt if it is true that BOE for surrounding towns are also looking at increases in their budgets. K. Heckt said that information is accurate.

c. FY2024 Budget Calendar:

K. Gourley and K. Heckt announced they will not be able to make the Public Hearing on April 25th, 2023. The Board then deliberated as to whether they should or could move the hearing. The Board decided to leave is as is for now and discuss this further at another meeting.

d. Discussion of Public Communication/Outreach:

A. Phelan presented ideas for public communication/outreach. She recommended explaining the previous referendum results. C. Danna added that we should also add the cost of each referendum. K. Gourley said this could be really good to show people who don't believe their vote counts. R. Lally said we should have the consequences of cuts in the budget and then the process of how the budget is done. The Board said it should also be a brochure or a one page document.

5) Adjournment: R. Lally adjourned this meeting at 9 PM.

Next Meetings:

March 30, 2023 – Special Meeting (if necessary)

April 4, 2023 – Special Meeting (THIS IS A TUESDAY) (if necessary)

April 6, 2023 – Special Meeting (if necessary)

Respectfully submitted by Ashleigh N. Johnson, Board Clerk

Ashleigh N. Johnson

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.

SEE ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER.