

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall/ZOOM*
March 21, 2024 – 7:15 P.M.**

Finance Committee Members Present: Ross Lally – Chairman, Robert Munroe – Vice Chair, Amanda Gordon, Rhea Klein, Robert Morra, Ashley Phelan, and Chris Connelly.

Board of Selectman Present: Rodney Fournier – First Selectman

Board of Education Present: Kristin Heckt - Superintendent

Staff Present: Jill Collins – Chief Financial Officer and Jim Rupert – Town Administrator

1) Call to Order:

R. Lally called this meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

2) Public Participation:

R. Lally requested that the commissioners look at outstanding items in revenue or expenses when we discuss elected official and town staff reports to speed up time spent in the meeting.

R. Morra MOVED to move budget calendar discussion from line item 6 to line item 4 to approve the public hearing date. C. Connelly SECONDED. By roll call vote, passes UNANIMOUSLY 7:0:0.

R. Lally called for public participation, but there was none.

3) Approval of Minutes:

a. February 15, 2024, Regular Meeting:

R. Morra MOVED to approve the February 15, 2024; regular meeting minutes as presented. C. Connelly SECONDED. By roll call vote, PASSES 6:0:1.

4) Budget Calendar:

R. Morra MOVED to have the public hearing on April 30th at Town Hall. A. Gordon SECONDED. By roll call, passes UNANIMOUSLY 7:0:0.

5) Elected Official and Town Staff Reports:

a. Board of Education Update:

K. Heckt announced in February they expended 55% compared to 56% last year. They continue to have open positions and are short on staff members. Because of that, they continue to actualize savings in salaries and benefits. At the March BOE meeting, the BOE committed \$300,000 toward the FY25 budget. There is also over expenditure in Special Education.

b. Revenue Summary:

J. Rupert stated the collection is doing well. We are over our projected amount in percentage collected. The revenue statement is doing better than projected.

c. Town Update:

J. Rupert presented the town update, and stated there were no concerns.

d. Other:

None.

6) New Business:

a. Presentation and Discussion of Board of Education's FY2025 Budget:

K. Heckt presented the BOE FY2025 budget stating the proposed expenditures are \$16,676,720 with a proposed increase of 3.52%, with much of the spending being salaries and benefits. During round 1 of reductions, 4.97% increase over FY24 and a \$801,226 increase over FY24. During round 2 of reductions, including removal of instructional materials, BCS grades 5 & 6 World Language, and athletic trainer funding. Reducing FY25 by \$233,656 and a 3.52% increase over FY24. The total projected grant awards being \$700,900 and the total capital proposals being \$204,125.

b. Presentation and Discussion of Board of Selectman's FY2025 Budget General Government, Capital and Debt Budgets:

J. Rupert presented the BOS FY25 budget and stated there was an increase of \$54,000 in administration that could not be cut because of separating domains with the school and switching to Microsoft and the IP services. J. Rupert continued by explaining each line that was increased, and the reasons why it increased.

7) Ongoing Business:

a. Discussion on Public Communication/Outreach:

A. Gordon asked if the town's intern could work on a chart for the public communication/outreach. J. Rupert stated that the intern could help with that and that there are people working on updating the website to include more budget information as requested.

8) Adjournment:

R. Lally adjourned this meeting at 9:08 PM.

Next Meetings:

April 3, 2024 – Special Meeting (THIS IS A WEDNESDAY)

April 18, 2024 – Regular Meeting

April 22, 2024 – 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.