

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025
*TOWN HALL/ZOOM***

Finance Committee Members Present at Town Hall/Zoom: Vice Chair Tyler Egner, Member Robert Morra, Member Amanda Gordon, Member Ashley Phelan (Zoom), Member Rhea Klein. Absent were Chair Ross Lally and Member Chris Connelly.

Staff Present Via Town Hall/Zoom: Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Board Clerk Mary Johnston, Selectmen Rodney Fournier, Town Administrator Jim Rupert. Absent was Board of Education Superintendent Kristin Heckt.

Others Present Via Town Hall/Zoom: Jim Loersch, Amanda Balboni

1. Call to Order

T. Egner called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Participation:

None

3. Approval of Minutes

3a. Approval of February 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

R. Morra MOVED to approve the February 20, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. R. Klein SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

4. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports

4a. BOE Update

R. Klein reviewed the Board of Education financial reports through February 28, 2025. The Board of Education has expended 55% of the appropriated budget through February. R. Klein reported on the Board of Education Transfers made during last month. The Committee discussed collection of Motor Vehicle Tax and increase in energy costs.

4b. Town Update

J. Collins reviewed the Financial Reports through February 28, 2025. J. Collins stated all overpayments has been adjusted and collections are back to normal. The percentage collected so far is 101.11%. Revenues and expenditures are on target for the fiscal year. The Committee discussed State and Federal grants in the budget. J. Rupert discussed the Land Use line item in the Town Budget and the possibility of moving funds into this line item. J. Collins reported the Interest Report is on track this fiscal year.

4c. Other

None.

5. Ongoing Business

5a. Communication

A. Gordon reported the budget presentation will have to be prepared, but who prepares and makes the presentation will need to be determined in the near future.

6b. Tax Issue

J. Collins reported all refunds requested have been sent out. The Committee discussed the budget amount for next fiscal year.

6c. Budget Calendar

The Finance Committee reviewed the Budget Calendar. The Committee will add this item to the March 27, 2025 Special Meeting agenda as there might be a change to meeting dates.

7. Adjournment

R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Mary J. Johnston

Mary J. Johnston

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
*TOWN HALL/ZOOM***

Finance Committee Members Present at Town Hall/Zoom: Chair Ross Lally, Member Robert Morra, Member Amanda Gordon, Member Rhea Klein, Member Tyler Egner. Absent were members Chris Connelly and Ashley Phelan.

Staff Present Via Town Hall/Zoom: Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Board Clerk Mary Johnston, Town Administrator Jim Rupert, Selectmen Rodney Fournier, Board of Education Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Incoming Board of Education Superintendent David Caruso, Board of Education Board Chair Andrew Broneill and Board of Education Business Manager Kusal Huynh.

Others Present Via Town Hall/Zoom: Jim Loersch

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Participation:

None.

3. New Business

3a. Presentation and Discussion of Board of Education's FY 2026 Budget

K. Heckt gave a presentation of the Expenditure Plan for FY 2026. K. Heckt reported the FY 2026 Proposed Expenditures total \$17,312,903 which is a 4.63% increase. The distribution of the FY Increase is spread of salaries, benefits, special education, administration/business, regular instruction, and operations/services. K. Heckt explained the source of budget drivers such as Contractual Obligations, Increased Costs in Maintenance of Operations and Special Education. K. Heckt shared the the budget reductions for the upcoming FY year, projected revenues, FY 26 Capital Proposals, and potential future referendum items. K. Heckt reported on the actual and proposed school enrollments. The Committee discussed hiring personnel for special programs and teach shortage.

3b. Presentation and Discussion of Board of Selectmen's FY 2026 Budget General Government, Capital, and Debt budgets

J. Rupert reviewed the presentation for the Board of Selectmen's FY 2026 budget. J. Rupert reviewed the 2024-2025 Accomplishments and the Board of Selectmen's Goals from the April 13, 2024, Retreat. J. Rupert reported the FY 26 Proposed Expenditures total \$7,408,870 which is a 4.68% increase from FY 25. J. Rupert discussed the FY Change by Town Department. J. Rupert provided the Department Budget Change Information Sorted

by Increase and Decrease amount. J. Rupert pointed out the biggest drivers of budget increases/decreases that include increases in Payroll, Personnel Services, Maintenance/Operation/Supplies, and Insurance. J. Rupert discussed the Capital Proposals for FY 26. J. Rupert pointed out the impact of Inflation on the Town's Budget. J. Rupert stated the FY 26 Projected Revenues will be discussed at a future meeting. The Committee discussed Personnel that are paid by grants and taxes. J. Rupert pointed out the increase of energy costs and insurance costs. J. Rupert stated he is waiting for the new insurance rates. J. Rupert said that any cuts to the budget could affect services. K. Heckt made the Committee aware of the potential of financing the food service program in the near future.

3c. Discussion of FY 2026 Budgets

The Committee discussed the FY 2026 Budgets. The Committee will continue discussions at upcoming Finance Committee meetings.

3d. Discussion of FY2025 Revenues & Expenditures

The Committee reviewed the the anticipated Revenues and Expenditures for the current fiscal year. J. Collins stated she will send out this information to the Committee before the next meeting. The Committee discussed state revenue collections and the impact to the budget.

4. Ongoing Business

4a. Budget calendar

The Committee reviewed the upcoming budget calendar. The Committee will hold Special Meetings on Thursday, April 3, 2025, and Thursday, April 10, 2025. The Committee will discuss future budget meetings at these special meetings.

4b. Discussion on Public Communications/Outreach

A. Gordon discussed the budget presentations for the FY 2026 budget and the development of a One Page piece for the BOS and BOE budgets for the public. R. Morra said representatives from the BOS and BOE should give the budget presentations to the public. The BOS would give the Capital portion of both budget presentations. R. Lally stated the Committee should keep in mind the tax issue and be ready to answer questions from the public.

5. Adjournment

R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Mary J. Johnston

Mary J. Johnston

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

Next Scheduled Meetings: April 3, 2025 – Special Meeting
April 10, 2025 – Special Meeting
April 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025
*TOWN HALL/ZOOM***

Finance Committee Members Present at Town Hall/Zoom: Chair Ross Lally, Member Robert Morra, Member Amanda Gordon, Member Rhea Klein, Member Tyler Egner, Member Ashley Phelan. Absent was Member Chris Connelly

Staff Present Via Town Hall/Zoom: Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Board Clerk Mary Johnston, Town Administrator Jim Rupert (7:22 p.m.), Selectmen Rodney Fournier (7:19 p.m.), Board of Education Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Incoming Board of Education Superintendent David Caruso, and Board of Education Business Manager Kusal Huynh.

Others Present Via Town Hall/Zoom: Jim Loersch

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Public Participation:

None.

3. New Business

3a. Discussion of FY2025 Budgets (expenditures and revenues)

The Committee discussed the Revised Budget for FY2025 Revenues. A. Gordon asked about the Building Officials Services revenue for the remainder of the fiscal year. J. Rupert replied there should be no issues with the remaining fiscal year revenue. A. Phelan questioned the audit process and wondered why it was taking so long. J. Collins explained staff was responding to the questions raised by the auditor. A. Phelan asked to see the auditor questions. J. Rupert said the auditor questions should be addressed within the next week. After discussing each line item, the total Revised Budget for FY 2025 was \$23,777,894.20. There are a few budget items that need more information before the Committee determines the total revised budget. The Committee will complete the FY 2025 revenues and determine the FY 2025 expenditures at the April 10, 2025, Special Meeting.

3b. Discussion of FY 2026 Budgets (expenditures and revenues)

The Committee discussed the FY 2026 Budget revenue projections. After reviewing and discussing each line item, the estimated FY 2026 revenue is \$5,755,776.00, which is subject to change as more budget items will need to be decided. The Committee will continue the discussion of the FY 2026 Budgets for expenditures and revenues at the April 10, 2025, Special Meeting.

3c. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Calendar Date Changes

The Committee reviewed the Budget Calendar for FY 2026. After reviewing the upcoming meeting dates, A. Gordon MOVED to make the following changes to the Budget Calendar:

April 10, 2025 – Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m., Town Hall

April 17, 2025 – Finance Committee Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m, Town Hall

April 22, 2025 – Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Finance Committee Special Meeting. Town Hall. (This is a Tuesday)

R. Morra SECONDED the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

3d. Discussion of Public Communication/Outreach

A. Gordon reported she will send last year's budget presentation and provide the slides to Tim White. A. Gordon said she will work on the Budget One Pager document for the public.

4. Adjournment

R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Mary J. Johnston

Mary J. Johnston

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

Next Scheduled Meetings April 10, 2025 – Special Meeting
 April 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting
 April 22, 2025 – Public Hearing/Special Meeting

**Town of Bolton, Connecticut
Finance Committee
Budget Calendar
FY2026 Budget Calendar**

~~4/18/25~~ — ~~Budget Filed with Town Clerk (5 days prior to Public Hearing)~~

~~4/18/25~~ — ~~Public Notice Issued (5 days prior to Public Hearing)~~

4/17/25 Budget Filed with Town Clerk (5 days prior to Public Hearing)

4/17/25 Public Notice Issued (5 days prior to Public Hearing)

Town of Bolton, Connecticut
Finance Committee
Budget Calendar
FY2026 Budget Calendar

- 4/10/25 Finance Committee Special Meeting (If necessary) – Budget Discussion
Location: Town Hall 7:15 PM
- 4/14-4/18/25 Bolton Public Schools Spring Recess
- 4/15/25 Finance Committee Special Meeting (If necessary) – Budget Discussion
Location: Town Hall 7:15 PM
- 4/17/25 Finance Committee Regular Meeting – Location: Town Hall 7:15 PM
- 4/17/25 **Budget Filed with Town Clerk (5 days prior to Public Hearing)**
- 4/17/25 **Public Notice Issued (5 days prior to Public Hearing)**
- 4/22/25 **Public Hearing/Finance Committee Special Meeting (if necessary) Location: Town Hall**
Time: 7:00 PM (THIS IS A TUESDAY) (Must be completed by May 1, 2025 by Charter)
- 4/23/25 Finance Committee Special Meeting (If necessary) – Budget Discussion
Location: Town Hall 7:15 PM **(THIS IS A WEDNESDAY)**
- 5/1/25 **Finance Committee Special Meeting (If necessary) – Budget Discussion (Must adopt the budget on**
or before 5/10/25 by Charter)
- 5/15/25 Finance Committee Regular Meeting – Location: Town Hall 7:15 PM
- 5/16/25 **Budget Filed with Town Clerk (5 days prior to Public Referendum)**
- 5/16/25 **Public Notice Issued (5 days prior to Public Referendum)**
- 5/20/25 **Budget Referendum**