

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026  
TOWN HALL/ZOOM**

**Finance Committee Members Present Via Town Hall/ Zoom:** Chair Ross Lally, Member Tyler Egner, Member Melissa Wielandt, Member Benjamin Davies. Absent Member Rodney Fournier, Member David Cowles, Member Denay Johnston

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Board Clerk Mary Johnston, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Board of Education Superintendent David Caruso

**Others Present Via Zoom:** J. Loersch

**1. Call to Order**

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

**2. Public Participation**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**3a. December 18, 2025 Meeting**

T. Egner MOVED to approve the December 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. M. Wielandt SECONDED the motion. B. Davies ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1.

**4. Elected Official and Town Staff Reports**

**4a. Tax Collection Summary**

J. Collins reported the Current Year Levy collected is 100.87%, Motor Vehicle is 89.23% and Supplemental Motor Vehicle is 108.91% as of December 31, 2025. Total collected for December 31, 2025 is 99.81%.

**4b. Town Update**

J. Collins reviewed the FY2026 Revenue Statement and pointed out Disabled is over \$113.70. R. Lally said the bulk of revenues is collected at the beginning of the fiscal year. J. Collins reported that \$43,833.00 in Interest has been collected through December. J. Collins added no transfers occurred in December. J. Collins reviewed the FY 2026 budget through December 31, 2025 and Town Grants for December totaled \$252,024.54. J. Collins shared the month end balance in the General Fund for December is \$15,630,510.56. The Committee discussed the outstanding grants and M. Wielandt asked for a document showing the grants and when they are due. R. Lally felt this was a good idea and will talk to J. Collins about such document for the Committee. The Committee then discussed grants that are paid up front, matching grants and debt service. J. Collins said she will bring the bond schedule to the next Committee meeting.

#### **4c. Board of Education Update**

D. Caruso reported as of December 31, 2025, the Board of Education has expended 39% of the budget or \$6,603,912 as compared to 39% in the prior year. The Board is currently projecting expenditures of \$16,747,814, which is a budget under expenditure of \$52,553 which represents a decrease of \$11,827 from the prior month's expenditure projection. D. Caruso reported there is nothing on the horizon that would be impactful financially.

#### **4d. Other**

None

### **5.Ongoing Business**

#### **5a. Communication**

The Committee held an extensive discussion on the Coffee and Conversation that was held today. D. Caruso stated there were approximately 30 attendees in person and 10 online. D. Caruso said it was a good session on school options/choices to increase attendance. The Committee then discussed how to increase the distribution of these public information sessions and it was suggested to post the information on bulletin boards at the Senior Center and Library. The Committee turned their discussion to increase the number of sessions during the budget process. It was mentioned to send the Minutes from the Coffee and Conversation sessions to the Committee, Board of Selectmen, Town Administration and post on the Town's website. R. Lally discussed the current Town's website and recommended adding \$40,000 to the FY 2027 Budget to update the Town's website. J. Collins said she will add the \$40,000 to the FY 2027 Budget to be presented at Tuesday's meeting for discussion.

#### **5b. Budget Calendar**

The Committee discussed the FY 2027 Budget Calendar. J. Collins said this calendar will allow for three referendums if needed. J. Collins suggested holding two public hearings to increase public participation. After discussion, the Committee added a second Public Hearing on April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The April 21, 2026 Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. as well. J. Collins will update the FY 2027 Budget Calendar and present it at the January 20, 2026 Special Meeting.

**8. Adjournment:** B. Davies MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. M. Wielandt SECONDED the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4:0:0.

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.