

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026  
TOWN HALL/ZOOM**

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

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

**Others Present Via Zoom: None**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Public Participation**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**3a. March 19, 2026, Regular Meeting**

R. Fournier MOVED to approve February 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented. D. Johnston SECONDED the motion. D. Caruso corrected the Minutes to show he attended in person. R. Fournier AMENDED his motion to reflect the correction. D. Johnston SECONDED the amendment. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0 AS AMENDED.

**4. New Business**

**4a. Discussion of FY 2026 budgets (expenditures & revenues)**

J. Collins provided the Revised FY 2026 Budget revenues for property taxes and fees to date.

**4b Discussion of FY 2027 budgets (expenditures & revenues)**

The Committee reviewed the proposed FY 2027 budget revenues and made the following recommendations:

Interest & Fees on Property Tax	\$60,000
Building Official Fees	\$75,000
Library	\$500.00
Building Official Services	\$0.00
Selectmen's Fees	\$15,000
Telephone	\$100,000
Town Clerk	\$92,000

Tuition	\$115,449.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$15,000
Interest on Investment	\$300,000
State and Federal Education Grants	
Educational Cost Sharing	\$2,683,216.00 Fixed
Adult Education	\$5,269.00 Fixed
State and Federal Grants Excluding Education	
Municipal Trans. Grant	\$-
PILOT: New Tiered Reimburs.	\$24,288.00 Fixed
Veteran's Grant	\$969.00
Disabled	\$500.00
Miscellaneous State/Federal Grants	\$5,000.00
Mash. Pequot	\$3,244.00 Fixed
DOT Transportation Grant	\$11,825.00 Fixed
Municipal Projects	\$24,859.00 Fixed
Municipal Stabilization	\$11,053.00 Fixed
Total	\$2,770,223.00

D. Caruso said he will have more information on Board of Education's revenues at the next meeting. J. Collins said she will need the audited numbers in the surplus.

D. Caruso explained, in response to a question at the last meeting, the blended insurance rates are 11.5%, but when combined with the life changes, the reduction in the budget ask is \$54,767, this savings lowers the budget ask to 4.84%.

D. Caruso discussed Columbia tuition compared to per pupil expenditures: transportation costs are not included for special education; any cost associated with special education and related services are not included; and current class sizes allow them to add students from Columbia without hiring additional staff. D. Caruso said enrollment opened on March 24 for two weeks. D. Caruso said transportation negotiations could have an impact on the budget.

R. Fournier discussed the payroll changes by department that were requested at the last meeting. In the FY 2027 proposed budget the addition of an Assistant Finance Director and implementation plan for existing Building Operations Director was discussed.

## **5. Ongoing Business**

### **a. Communication**

R. Lally asked the Committee if holding a Coffee and Conversations session and two Public Hearings were redundant. After discussion, it was decided to hold the Coffee and Conversation session after the referendum. It was suggested to have an online calculator for residents to use to determine the tax they owe. R. Lally will look into that option.

**5b. Budget Calendar**

The Committee reviewed the FY 2027 Budget calendar. The referendum will be May 19, 2026; May 20, 2026, is the meeting to set the Mil Rate at 5:30 p.m.; and the Coffee and Conversation session on May 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. J. Collins will update the budget calendar and send out to the Committee.

**6. Adjournment:** M. Wielandt MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. T. Egner SECONDED the motion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6:0:0.

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.