

**TOWN OF BOLTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
9:00 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2026
TOWN HALL/ZOOM**

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

Staff Present Via Zoom/In Person: Board Clerk Mary Johnston, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins, Board of Education Superintendent David Caruso, Interim Finance Director Stephanie Smigala, Town Administrator Jim Rupert

Others Present Via Zoom/In Person: Jim Loersch

1. Call to Order

R. Lally called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m.

Public Participation

None.

2. Ongoing Business

3a. Discussion as a result of the Public Hearing

R. Fournier said from the Public Hearing that 5% cuts would be palpable but no focus on what to cut. D. Cowles said he heard how to get somewhere else before the referendum showing increase in revenue and decrease in expenditures. R. Lally added to provide multiple year projections showing the future budget improvements. D. Cowles said to improve marketing materials in the future.

3b. Discussion on FY2026-2027 Revenues & Expenditures

3c. Discussion on FY 2025-2026 Revenues & Expenditures

The Committee reviewed the calculations/scenarios shared by R. Fournier and S. Smigala during the Public Hearing. R. Fournier MOVED for discussion purpose to reduce the expenditures and increase revenue to achieve an 6% increase in taxes. B. Davies SECONDED the motion. S. Smigala explained the expense side of the budget with regards to cuts. The Committee then discussed the amounts of cuts made on revenue and expenses. R. Lally suggested 4% cut from Board of Selectmen and 4% cut from Board of Education and then one third cut comes from this year and discuss at the next Public Hearing. The Committee discussed cuts to CAPA, proposed 2% cut and the impacts to town services, students, and employee morale from budget cuts. R. Lally summarized the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen to work on cuts and to try to carry over funds to next budget year. After discussion, R. Fournier withdrew his motion and B. Davies withdrew

his second. After more discussion, the charge is for the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen make 1.75% reductions in the budget.

3d. Communication

No discussion. S. Smigala will make changes to the Budget PowerPoint.

3e. Budget calendar

No discussion. Calendar is up to date.

3. Adjournment: D. Cowles MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. B. Davies SECONDED the motion.

Yeas: Fournier, Egner, Wielandt, Cowles, Davies, Johnston

Nays: None

Abstained: Lally

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1

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.